





## Arab-Jewish talks launched to promote Mideast peace

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## Agriculture meeting concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates to a four-day meeting which discussed production of barley and animal feed ended their discussions Wednesday and issued a statement calling for the continuation of the "Al Mashreq" project to help countries of the region boost their agricultural production.

The Al Mashreq project orientates local farmers on the use of fertilizers and improved seeds. The project which is financed by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab League for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) is aimed at increasing barley production and utilising pastures in dry areas which only receive up to 350 millimetres of rain.

The delegates called for the continuation of this project beyond a five-year period to help the concerned countries of the region increase their animal feed and redress their economic problems.

They also called on concerned governments to provide facilities for the transfer of modern technology in the process of rearing sheep and other animals and they expressed their support for a second phase of the Al Mashreq project which will focus mainly on agricultural extension services.

Delegates from Jordan and six other Middle Eastern states reviewed a paper by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) on means of helping individual countries acquire modern technology that suits their region and gives an important role to agricultural researches.

Syria presented a working paper on technological aspects used in the production of barley and the application of fertilisers as well as means of protecting soil.

ICARDA, which organised the meeting in Amman, said that 80 researchers and specialists from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon and Morocco attended the meetings and reviewed the progress of the project in Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

According to ICARDA the project also focus on human resource development by training technical staff and organising study tours and workshops to enhance information exchanges.

## Arab writers present list of recommendations

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee representing delegations of the Eighteenth Arab Writers Conference which started last week in Amman has drawn up Wednesday the final statement and recommendations concerning the major issues to be tackled by writers in Arab countries.

Confirming their commitment to the adoption of democracy and freedom of opinion, representatives voiced their solidarity against all forms of repression, assassination, imprisonment and exile. They also called for the need to guarantee free cultural exchange and the lifting of all forms of censorship.

The committee insisted upon the adoption of the following principles:

- The need to improve all institutions in all Arab societies, supporting them, and guarantee that they enjoy freedom and independence.
- A radical change must take place in the political, economic and social infrastructure of Arab countries as one step towards the implementation of democracy and the respect of human rights.
- A demand that the international society force the Zionist entity to sign an international treaty that bans the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- Confirmation that the achievement of a just and lasting peace would not be achieved unless U.N. resolutions are fully implemented especially those which stipulate the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the right of return, the right of self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.
- Condemnation of the constant infringement upon the sovereignty of Iraq. All Arab regimes should call upon writers and their friends to condemn the embargo and constant interference in Iraq's interior affairs.
- Condemnation of the Western, Zionist and racial attacks on Arabs and Muslims and the escalating danger of Fascist and Nazi movements in the West. The recommendation called for a unified and strict action which would put an end to the tragedy in former Yugoslavia.
- The need to draw up suitable formulae to clear the air among Arab countries insisting upon the importance of solidarity to the achievement of the Arab peoples' aspirations.

The committee also called for the condemnation of the situation in some Arab countries, such as in Libya and Iraq to the secretary general of the United Nations Organisation, the secretary general of Arab League and also to the UNESCO.

An election for the president of the Arab Writers Union took place at the end of the session and the Jordanian writer and head of the Jordanian Writers Union, Fakhri Ka'war, won by seven votes against 4. Jordan will therefore be the headquarters of the Arab writers secretariat for two years.

## Law committee approves state security draft law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Law Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday endorsed an important article in the draft law on the State Security Court which would grant the Court of Cassation the right to overrule sentences and verdicts passed by the State Security Law.

Meeting under its Chairman Deputy Salim At Zu'bi, the committee approved the fifth article of the draft law which substitutes articles 9 and 10 of the original law.

Under the fifth article of the draft law, the Court of Cassation would be empowered to reject a ruling by the State Security Court provided that at least five judges sit as arbiters. The committee said that the Court of Cassation should be authorised to examine cases and overrule verdicts and vindicate or indict defendants.

The committee said that the court will also have the power to direct the State Security Court towards an appropriate decision which conforms with the law. Furthermore, the committee said that the Court of Cassation will have the right to return to the State Security Court for reconsideration.

"The committee also endorsed an article related to the formation of the State Security Court as follows:

In certain circumstances and in the public interest, the prime minister shall have the right to form one or more special State Security Courts each consisting of three civilian or military judges appointed by the prime minister upon recommendation from the minister of justice. (In case of civilian judges) and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff (in case of the military).

Following the committee meeting, Mr. Zu'bi said that by allowing the Court of Cassation to overrule decisions by the State Security Court, defendants will have the right to have their cases examined by two courts.

The original draft law on the State Security Court had been passed by the Lower House of Parliament but His Majesty King Hussein returned it in accordance with Article 93 of the Constitution for re-consideration.

When the draft law in its original form was debated by the Lower House, it failed to secure the required two third majority approval and was thus referred to the law committee. According to procedures, the draft law in its new form will now be submitted to the Lower House again for approval.

The Lower House Wednesday failed to convene ordinary session for lack of quorum. Only 49



Salim Al Zubi members turned up for the meeting which forced the speaker to postpone the session. A statement said that parliament failed to convene in view of the prevailing bad weather conditions and the next session will be held Sunday.

## Arab labour conference to be held in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-one Arab countries represented by labour ministers in addition to representatives of Arab and international organisations concerned with labour are to attend a Arab labour conference due to be held in Amman in April, according to an announcement by the Minister Abdul Karim Al Jabr Wednesday.

The conference to be held between 5 and 12 April will review important working paper dealing with Arab women's role in development the minister said during a meeting for the the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) will be organising the meeting in Amman.

fact that women constitute a large part of the production sectors of the Arab world the paper is important.

Arrangements for the conference were reviewed at the meeting which was attended by representatives of the various concerned departments.

The work of 10 sub-committees dealing with financial, tourist, transport, publication, registration, information, hotel arrangement, reception and supervision work pertaining to the conference was reviewed at the meeting.

The Ministry of Labour and the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) will be organising the meeting in Amman.

## Artist proves pottery is more than just a handicraft

By Curt Ryan  
and Stephanie Genkin  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As 1992 draws to a close, art enthusiasts in Amman are looking forward to the many international exhibitions around town.

The Alla Art Gallery has the best for last.

The skill and talent of the Jordanian artist Mr. Taha shines through a collection of works on display at the gallery until 27 December.

Mr. Taha's collection of works, including the techniques of sculpture, calligraphy and mural design, Mr. Taha's work was described by Crown Prince Hassan as "an inspiration only to visitors but to a new generation."

Celebrated by laymen and artists in Jordan as one of the most ceramic artists, Mr. Taha's achievements with the medium marks an important contribution to the country's under-represented artistic community.

While art buffs commonly hold him in high esteem, Mr. Taha's ceramic pieces will remind them to his exhibition, that they can be more than a mere handicraft. His clay collection elevates ceramics from the mere of functional crafts to the realm of fine art.

"Before I left Amman to study I was a calligrapher," recalled Mr. Taha. "I was also king pottery." In 1963, he began his formal art studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad. At that time, the academy had three specialisms: ceramics, sculpture, and painting. "In the beginning I studied all three," said Mr. Taha. "However, my professor soon chose me to study ceramics, and I learned quickly," he added. Mr. Taha combined his new focus on ceramics with his former trade as a calligrapher.

In the 1970s, Mr. Taha went to Cardiff in Wales. "The ceramic movement in Britain is very, very rich, and progressed rapidly after World War II. I feel that it is the best," he said.

Mr. Taha's work not only bears the mark of years spent in Britain, but also conveys a devotion to his Arab and Islamic identity. Several of his mural designs serve as artistic memorials to Jerusalem. The collection's ceramic designs also dwell on the impact of recent events in the Arab World. A series of murals featured at the exhibition specifically honour the intifadah and at the same time pays tribute to the historic landscape of Jerusalem.

The exhibition will give art buffs of all tastes an enriching and lasting memory of the arts in Amman throughout 1992.



An exhibit

## Environmental issues discussed in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Participants in a two-day seminar on the environment discussed in their second day meeting issues related to family planning, the role of non-governmental organisations in protecting the environment, and the effects of people on the environment in Aqaba city.

Family planning was tackled by Munira Shaaban, a member of the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Society, who announced that 44 per cent of the Kingdom's population is under 15 years of age, a clear indication that the birth rate in Jordan is very high.

For every woman the average number of children is 5.6, while the mother mortality rate stands at 40 for every 100,000 deliveries, she said.

The percentage of deliveries under medical supervision, Ms. Shaaban said, is 89.5 per cent, and the use of birth controls by Jordanian families is 35 per cent, she said.

Ms. Shaaban, who works as an inspector in mother and child care centres, said that most disabled persons in Jordan are born to large families. Moreover, a large number of the disabled were born at home, she added.

Human activities on the environment was dealt with by Director of the Marine Science Station in Aqaba Janti Qar, who stressed the importance of spreading awareness among the public on the proper means to protect the environment. He warned that ignorance has negative repercussions on the environment. Aqaba, he said, is clean compared to other areas. Pollution in the city results from waste discharged by some ships, but generally the authorities clean up polluted areas, he said.

Mariam Allawi of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation dealt with ways to manage homes in an environmentally-safe manner by the use of raw building materials that fit the nature of the surrounding area. In order to protect houses environmentally, she said, walls and floors should be insulated and materials used in construction should not be harmful to health. Ms. Allawi warned of the use of insecticides, chemical detergents and organic fertilisers since they are detrimental to the environment.

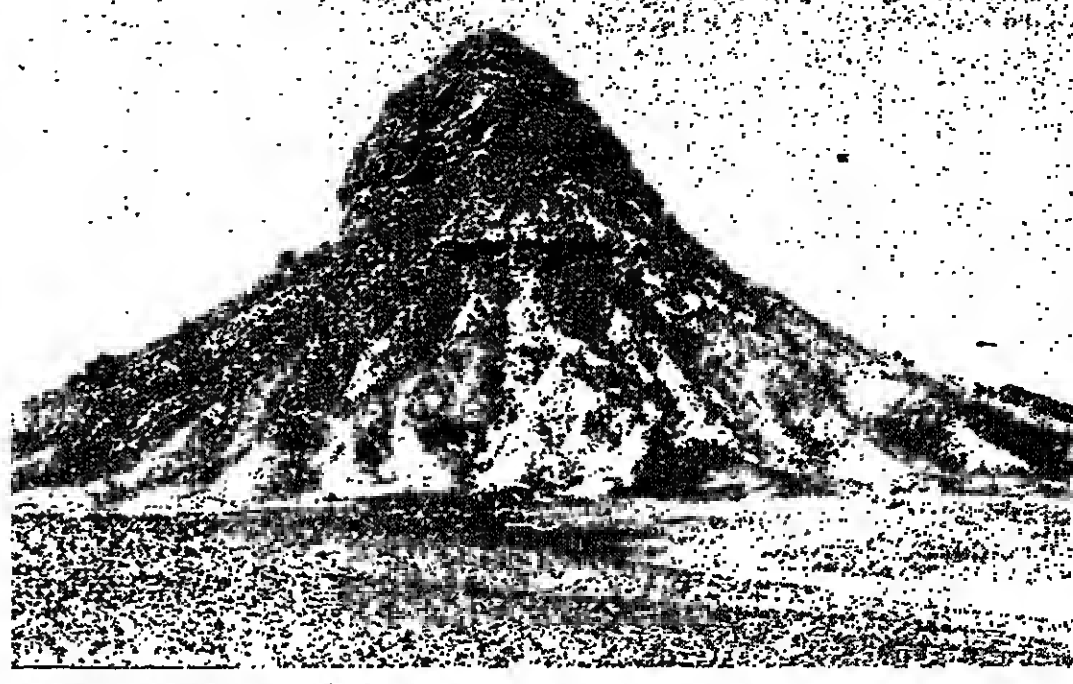
## Unexploited natural wealth waits to be tapped

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Geological surveys have established that Jordan has an abundance of non-metallic minerals and diamonds as well as semi-precious stones, and the government is planning to establish a commercial venture to tap the unexploited natural wealth, a senior official said Wednesday.

Quartz sand of unsurpassed quality used in glass industry which could yield numerous high-value by-products is one of the best assets of the Kingdom in addition to industrial minerals such as kaolinite, bentonite, dolomite and tripoli — used in paint and ceramics — as well as titanium, said Kamal Jreisat, director-general of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

"Our research date has established beyond doubt that Jordan has commercially exploitable reserves of these and other numerous other non-metallic minerals," Mr. Jreisat told the Jordan Times.



Geological experts say non-metallic minerals are in abundance in Jordan

"I have no doubt that if properly exploited these could easily beat phosphate and potash as Jordan's primary foreign-exchange earners," he said.

The Council of Ministers recently decided to set up a commercial entity to work with the private sector in mining the mineral wealth. A committee has been formed to follow up on the issue with the minister of energy and mineral resources as its chairman.

Mr. Jreisat said the shape of the company had not been determined, but that "several foreign companies have already indicated their keen interest in the venture." He did not give details.

"New data available to us now indicates that diamonds could be found in some of the 'most poor' areas in the south of Jordan," and a Sri Lankan expert had found that "semi-precious stones were also to be found in plenty" in the Kingdom, Mr. Jreisat said.

"What these projects need is the right approach," said Mr. Jreisat, adding that he had recommended the establishment of a commercial venture for the purpose as far back as six years.

The NRA is only a geological survey agency which seeks to locate and establish potential reserves of natural resources, he explained. "We never had a dedicated entity to follow up our findings and recommendations," he said. "Hopefully the new company will fill the gap now."

Many of the non-metallic minerals found in Jordan have wide uses and are scarce in the international market and therefore will enjoy excellent marketability, he said. He cited as an example zeolite — found in the northeast — which is used as a filter for water purification as well as a neutralising agent "to absorb non-desirable gases from animal feed." Another is bentonite, which produces a lubricant extensively used in drilling for oil.

The Aqaba region holds over 100 million tonnes of ready-for-use feldspar, a prime component for ceramic tiles, while tuff — a strengthening compound for cement — is found in abundance in the northeast.

"Jordan is poor in metallic

minerals, but is very rich in non-metallic minerals," said Mr. Jreisat. "Having established this as a fact, it is up to the commercial sector to exploit the assets and contribute to the national economy," he said. "On our part, we remain open for all suggestions and are ready to cooperate with creative ideas and proposals."

JORDAN  
TIMES  
TEL: 667171

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An exhibition of ceramics by the Jordanian artist Mahmoud Taha at Alla Art Gallery.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Hind Naser at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by painter Ufemia Rizk at Yarmouk University.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Sculpture exhibition by Mona Sandi at Al Balka Art Gallery in Al Fuhais.
- \* Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza Fayed Al Hasani, Kameel Al Mughanni and Lalla Shawa at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.)
- \* Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.
- \* Exhibition of paintings by artist Kamal Al Jawhari at Housing Bank Complex Art Gallery.

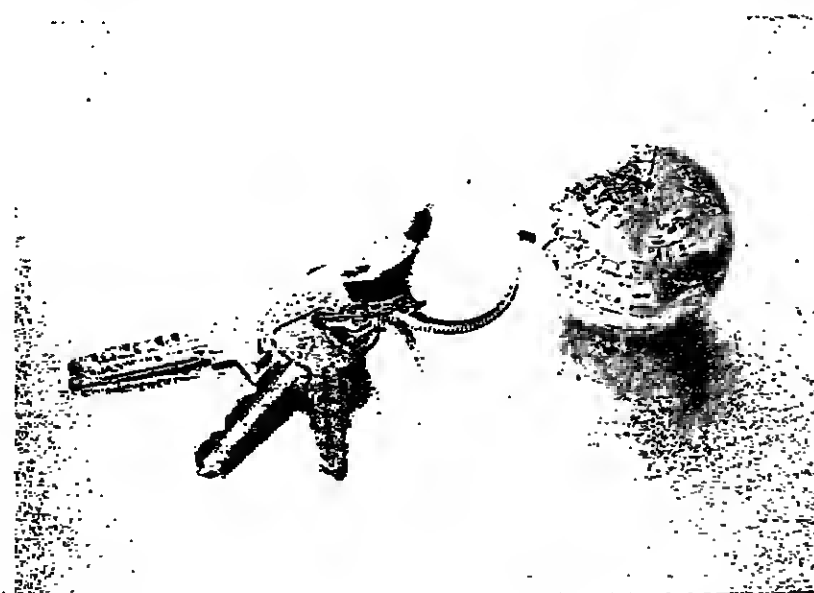
### PLAY

- \* Play entitled "Waiting for Godot", directed by Sawwan Darwazah at the Royal Cultural Centre, the main theatre — 8 p.m.

### FILM

- \* A 1942 Walt Disney film entitled "Bambi" at the American Centre, at 5 p.m. (72 min.).

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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جورديان تايمز مؤسسة عربية سياسية مستقلة 325 شارع فلسطين في عمان - الأردن

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

مَكْذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



## Archaeologists discover ancient monastery in Jordan

By Jane Arraf  
Reuter

**RAIN ABATA, Jordan** — Archaeologists working in the most desolate setting on earth have discovered a 7th century monastery dedicated to Lot, who was saved from the fire and brimstone of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The excavation near the Dead Sea has unearthed a monastery and an elaborate mosaic floor as well as what may be the cave where believers took refuge with their wives after his wife turned back and was turned

into a pillar of salt. "The early Christians believed this was Lot's cave — when pilgrims came to visit, this is what they presented as the room," Greek archaeologists Konstantinos Politis told visitors wined from the steep, 20-minute climb up the mountain.

There, the Old Testament says, given wine and seduced by his two daughters desperate to continue the family, the nephew of Abraham fathered Moab and Ammon, whose descendants populated ancient Jordan.

Mr. Politis, who directed the British Museum-funded

excavation completed in November, said the cave had been robbed centuries ago. But workers digging deeper found a bronze age clay pot and drinking cups dating to the period when Lot would have lived.

Four thousand years after Lot, early Christians drawn by legends of the site built an elaborate basilica dedicated to what both the Bible and the Koran describe as a righteous man who was saved by God because he rallied against the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"Lot please bless us," reads a plaintive inscription from three early pilgrims. Some geologists believe the two cities, supposedly destroyed for their sins in a rain of fire and brimstone, could have been annihilated in a volcanic eruption while eerie upright salt formations gave rise to the Biblical story of Lot's wife.

The monastery, depicted on an important 6th-century mosaic floor map which places it above the city of Zoar (modern-day Safi), has been sought by Biblical archaeologists for decades.

It came to light only after excavating an ancient stone reservoir visible from the

winding road which twists through the jagged mountains and ancient craters to the southeastern end of the Dead Sea — still referred to in Arabic as the Sea of Lot. Jordanian soldiers on the road descending to the lifeless ocean — the lowest point on Earth — patrol the bleak mountains which sheltered Palestinian guerrillas in the 1970s within sight of Israeli-held territory.

The site, a twisting three-hour drive from Amman, consists of a basilica with two rows of columns and an aisle leading to the cave and kitchen and dining areas where

monks gathered for meals. Mosaic floors bright with vines and animals date the structures to 606 and 691 AD — a period of thriving monastic tradition in Palestine which survived the Muslim conquest.

A community of perhaps 100 monks lived in nearby caves, coming down to the monastery for prayer and communal meals, said Mr. Politis, who is writing a book on the excavation for the British Museum.

Despite the desolate setting, the monastery, one of hundreds which flourished in that period, was fed by a

spring where monks grew grapes, apricots and olives on irrigated terraces.

Seeds and bones found on the site show 25 different kinds of foods, including meat, fowl and fish which would have been served to a constant stream of visitors to the Monastery of Saint Lot.

"It was an attractive life for young, educated males — monks paid no taxes," said Mr. Politis.

Although present-day thieves have stolen two of the most important architectural pieces, the excavation, partly funded by the Greek government, recovered an elaborate

seven-cornered pulpit, coins, fine pottery and fragments of hanging metal and glass lamps.

Mr. Politis said common items such as silver platters and goblets might have originally been in the church but looted in antiquity.

In a mass grave just unearthed under the dining room floor, the disjoined skeletons of 10 monks lie jumbled in a heap.

Mr. Politis said his team would soon seal the grave, covering the bones which have grown brown and powdery in the 13 centuries since they were buried.

## A globally accepted plan for the future

By Peter Siders

to the Jordan Times. On his home in a small, isolated Nova Scotia, Mr. Baird wants to save the world.

We are standing at the edge of what will be the greatest age in the history of humankind," proclaims a report issued recently by a small think tank, which seeks to "help to inject new life into this new age."

Today is the first day of the rest of your life, Mr. Baird, head thinker, of the Hunter Street Think Tank have put

forward a proposal to rid the world of its nasty habits, unemployment, terrorism, ethnic cleansing, starvation, opium, guard dogs and peep shows — just some of the

will fantastically disappear, says Mr. Baird, should his ideas be realised.

Mr. Baird writes: "What is badly needed is a globally accepted plan for the future. Until we have a plan we will continue into the future like a ship without a rudder. Without a plan forces cannot be focused. If an alien showed up to warn us, we have ten years before our species becomes extinct, it wouldn't be long before we had our first global plan. Do we have to wait for them to motivate us?"

Enter the Hunter Street Cheerleading Squad.

Hunter Street has written "an offer to the public of planet Earth" a proposed plan for the future. Nothing new, really. However, this proposal is an anomaly among the humdrum, dry,

pseudo-intellectual presentations preferred by most other think tanks; Hunter Street's proposals are contained in a novel — one which would impress most grade school creative writing teachers.

The proposals are not so subtly presented in a story about a wizard, aliens and main characters named Try and Lila on the gloomy, war-ravaged planet Pie where everyone is too busy caring for themselves to do anything to better their situation.

Try is a missile engineering student who narrowly escapes death from a terrorist blast on a street in a dirty, stormy city. After the trauma, he and his girlfriend Lila pledge their lives to "end the hate permeating (the) planet" and venture out to solicit the help of a reclusive, all-knowing wizard who lives in the only

beautiful place on the planet — a sun-drenched, tropical island. After "an arduous trip through the crashing seas," they find him and "fortunately, he is a friendly wizard" who unselfishly agrees to empower them with the panacea knowledge.

The story and its blindly obvious symbolism continue as the wizard shows Try and Lila the wonders of his home planet which, of course, demonstrate just how fantastic our world could be.

To be fair, some of his proposals seem legitimate. A worldwide electronic university, enabling earthlings to study via computer, and a sophisticated bullet-train linking the cities of the world are envisionable and one can argue the practicality of their implementation.

Others, however splendid

they are, make you cynically wonder if Mr. Baird and his fellow think tankers were tanked when they thought.

The worldwide bank account, funded generously by governments and citizens, that would "touch" the people of the world and "combine their strengths to generate awesome creative energy" to forever end depressions and recessions is one that springs to mind.

One does have to give the guy some credit — he's not all talk; he is putting his plan into action.

Mr. Baird has sent his proposal and a synopsis of his novel, *A Magic Thing — The Evolution of a Super Civilisation*, to newspapers and news organisations around the world. (Which is his biggest mistake — most news organisations aren't regarded as

pinnacles of positivity, especially when confronted with such bordering on the bizarre ideas. Mr. Baird, no doubt, would say this is part of the problem.)

He is looking for a publisher in every country for his "document on the future." The publisher receives a "fair and normal percentage of royalty" but must agree payments that normally would go to the author would be used instead to buy computers for students in the country.

Knowledge is power. A copy of the 64,000 word manuscript is \$100, "to help cover the costs of production." He is looking for an interested publishing house in Jordan to take him up on his offer.

Mr. Baird lives on Hunter Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

## Somali farmers find a ray of hope

P.V. Vivekanand

Times Staff Reporter. WAS not drought and its that were behind the of the Somali people as the wanton destruction of farmlands and looting of tools and equipment, which deprived entering Somali farmers of all as to make a living for

themselves instead of having extend their hands for national handouts.

Today, one of the few spots that contrast with sharp images of death, famine and starvation in Somalia is a small but significant sector of the farming nation slowly starting to the land, thanks to the combined efforts of the British charity Oxfam, which is sowing seeds and pesticides, and the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP), which offers other in-kind aid.

That makes it even more surprising that the so-called rehabilitation of agriculture taken roots around Kismayo in the southeast, a traditionally lawless trouble spot in the war-torn Horn of Africa.

Up to 6,000 Somali families now benefit from the Oxfam-WFP effort, which involves encouraging farmers to cultivate their land by offering them

the essential needs of farming. Tools, seeds and water.

"We lost everything in the war," said Abdi Dagle, who, along with his entire family, was preparing a one-square-kilometre land to plant maize. "Gunmen came repeatedly to the village and took away everything that we owned; our tools, pumpsets and cattle."

The story of the Dagle family is typical of most Somali farmers, but it stands out in that the Dagle did not flee their land despite the heavy odds.

"There was no food; people were dying around us. There was no water and diseases were plenty. But we still hung on, eating grass and roots," recalled Dagle. "We had nowhere to go except our own land. But we stayed, praying to God not to be cruel to us for our entire life."

Dagle's hopes were rewarded when international relief agencies slowly made their way to Kismayo and set up feeding centres to meet the urgent needs of the people. Although nowhere near acceptable levels, the help kept alive families like the Dagle and those in the camps for the displaced.

And that was indeed a miracle, given the clan rivalry and violence that plagued

Kismayo — one of the most violent of Somali regions where half of a dozen organised groups and hundreds of bandit gangs roamed the countryside, taking what they wanted by force and attacking everything that moved.

Kismayo and the surrounding region are blessed with water from the Jubba River, which flows down to the Indian Ocean. For centuries, the land has been very fertile and the people very hardworking. It is only a matter of time before the region gets back on its feet, provided law and order is restored and farmers are encouraged to go back to their land, U.N. experts say.

Coconut palms are plenty in the coastal region. Every part of the palm is of use to man, in one form or another. The fruit is edible, and yields healthy cooking oil while its shell could be excellent firewood as well as fibre for ropes and mattresses. The palm branches and trunk are housing material for many.

It is estimated that there are up to two million coconut palms in and around Kismayo, offering the inland the look of a typical island in the Indian Ocean or the mainland in southern India.

The "rehabilitation of agriculture" has already planted the seeds of the hopes of farmers in Kismayo like



Many Somali families which have either returned to their farmlands or never left the land despite violence and starvation, are now tilling the land as part of an agricultural rehabilitation programme launched in the southeast of the country (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

Dagle who says he needs nothing but tools and seeds to make the farms — of bananas and other fruits as well as maize and wheat — shine green again.

For the moment, the Dagle family are working the land of another, who owns a water pump-set which qualifies the family to get free fuel from UNICEF.

The Dagle family is not working for full wages; only a part of their labour is paid in cash, the rest is in the form of water from the land since Dagle's farm does not have direct access to water channels.

But the family is happy. It has found a new hope among despair and their spirits are rising just as the level of the muddy waters of the Jubba River.

"This is the only work we know," said Dagle's wife, Haluma, as she encouraged her children to work rather than staring at the small group of reporters and cameramen who descended on them out of the blue.

"We will be working on our own land soon," Dagle explained as his wife's eyes gleamed with hope. "As soon as the work is finished here, the owner of the land will divert his water channel to our land and then we hope to have our own farm going

again." In addition to seeds, Oxfam provides pesticides and small quantities of fertilisers. In its turn, UNICEF offers farming tools such as hoes as well as fuel for water pumps.

"This land is blessed; we don't really need fertilisers," says Dagle. But, fertilisers are essential, explained a UNICEF agronomist, to ensure round-the-year utilisation of the land by planting different seasonal crops.

The agricultural efforts in Kismayo were set back in November by massive flooding of the Jubba River. Thousands of square kilometres of fertile farmlands were under at least two metres of water for weeks. But that was the least of the worries of the Somalis, who, for the better part of the past four years, have been living under the dreadful shadow of the gun.

"Floods are part of the Somali legacy," said Abdi, the agronomist. "People here have learnt to live with it." The UNICEF-Oxfam project is targeting up to 20,000 farming families in the area. "We hope that once the water recedes, we can encourage many from the camps for the displaced to get back to their land and start working."

The waters of Jubba may indeed recede; but the fears of the Somalis are still high. "I cannot go back to my farm," said a community leader in a camp for the displaced in Kismayo town. "Looters and bandits are still very active in the area and I cannot afford to expose my people to danger any more than they are today," argued the middle-aged man who identified himself as Omar, a leader of the Bantu community living about 50 kilometres inland from Kismayo.

When Omar spoke to this reporter in the third week of November, it was rumoured that it was only the flood waters that was keeping a powerful armed group from moving towards Kismayo to take over the town. But since then, American-led international forces have landed in Mogadishu, the capital which lies some 600 kilometres to the north, and were planning to land in Kismayo soon.

As and when that happens, it will probably be the deliverance of the Dagle, the Omars and others like them. "We are not fighters; we are a simple farming community which minds its own business," said the Bantu leader. "We don't care for whoever is in power, here in Kismayo or in Mogadishu. All we want is to be left alone, to work on our land and feed our families."

## BOOK REVIEW

### A Lamentable Dispute

Oil, Power and Principle: Iran's Oil Nationalisation And Its Aftermath

By Mostafa Elm

Syracuse University Press, New York 1992, \$39.95

The familiar thesis of this book is that Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq, perceiving Iran as the enfeebled and innocent prey of the British, the Russians and its own imperial governments, Qajar and Pahlavi, was resolved, since 1921, to stop foreign interference and introduce parliamentary democracy. "Constitutional rule could not develop as long as foreign domination fed local corruption." And for Mossadeq the symbol and instrument of foreign domination was the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, whose concession had been exacted from a despotic Iranian regime. The nationalisation of the company was in consequence "legally and morally right." The opposing British case in the ensuing dispute was that abrogation of the concession and seizure of the company amounted to robbery, and that a settlement must include fair compensation, no discrimination against British interests, and arrangements for an efficient industry.

For purposes of research into the history of this lamentable confrontation, official Iranian archives, apart from the published *Asnad-e Naft* of 1951 and the proceedings of Senate and Majlis, were presumably not accessible to Dr. Elm. Haymaking, however, amongst the British material now disclosed in the Public Records Office, he recounts the desperate endeavours of Her Majesty's Government to manipulate Iranian opinion, to encourage the shah, to enlist American support, to diminish the intransigence of the company, and in the end to get rid of Mossadeq himself. These shenanigans, to be sure, ironically or sourly described here with copious quotation from sources high and low, sound "impossibly high-banded" in our enlightened times 40 years on. But in the contemporary context of the cold war, the beyday of Nasser and the chaotic state of Iranian politics, it was not altogether wicked to try to protect a pretty substantial British interest and a principle of international behaviour. Indeed the claim of Anthony Eden, endorsing the establishment of the consortium which, with Iranian participation, eventually took over the oil industry, that it was the policy of Britain to do all in their power to ensure the wellbeing and prosperity of Persia, "was not necessarily quite as 'far from the truth' as Dr Elm affirms."

If there were natural conflicts of interest between Iran and Britain, the conflict of personality in this case was acute. There could be no more intractable contrast than the difference between the chairman of the company, William Fraser Lord Strathclyde (or Lord Crude of Abadan, as Gulbenkian unkindly entitled him), a "mean Glasgow accountant," and the saintly, emotional and obstinate Mossadeq. In their struggle with that heroic Iranian, Herbert Morrison and "the ineffable Shepherd," ambassador in Tehran, get short shrift from Dr. Elm. And Mossadeq himself of course was beset by radical agitators in the National Front, not to mention "the royal court and the privileged elite."

Wise Americans, initially not so closely concerned in the imbroglio, did their best to mediate, but inevitably became involved in the search for reasonable stability in Iran. They paid dearly in Iranian hatred for American support for autocratic government. Their intervention in 1954, according to Dr. Elm, "planted the seeds" of the revolution 25 years later, of the Iranian war with Iraq, of the invasion of Kuwait, and of the Gulf War of 1991 — Middle East International.

A.R.H. Kellas

## THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

May God defend me from my friends. I can defend myself from my enemies  
— Francois Voltaire, French writer-philosopher (1694-1778).

Yes and no are the oldest and simplest words, but they require the most thought  
— Pythagoras, Greek philosopher-mathematician (about 582 B.C.-500 B.C.).

Only parents' love can last our lives  
— Robert Browning English poet (1812-1889).

I believe in the discipline of silence and can talk for hours about it  
— George Bernard Shaw, English playwright (1856-1950).

He who sings frightens away his ills  
— Miguel De Cervantes, Spanish writer (1547-1616).

raging floods in the Jubba River flowing down to the Indian Ocean in the southeast of Somalia were a blessing in disguise for a new group of invading armed bandits in the latter half of November (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)



## New book reveals little-known facts about Casablanca

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fans of the 1943 classic *Casablanca* know that Humphrey Bogart never said, "play in again, Sam."

But do they know that a 1944 Warner Bros. publicity release announced the stars would be Ronald Reagan, Ann Sheridan and Dennis Morgan?

That is one of the little-known facts disclosed in the new book, *Round Up The Usual Suspects: The Making of Casablanca* — Bogart, Bergman and World War II by Jean Harnetz.

Casablanca's publicity release, the author says: "They did this: they could put Ann Sheridan in the movie, but they knew they couldn't cast Ronald Reagan." The reason: Reagan had already been scheduled for active duty in the army.

Bogart had been slated to play Rick from the beginning, but producer Hal Wallis wanted Hedy Lamarr as Ilsa. But Louis B. Mayer wouldn't lend his glamour star to rival Warner Bros.

Wallis' next choice was the French import Michelle Morgan. But she wanted \$55,000, and Ingrid Bergman was available from David O. Selznick at \$25,000.

All of the casting seems inspired. Conrad Veidt, Peter Lorre, S.Z. Sakall, Marcel Dalio, Helmer Dantine and many lesser players were themselves refugees from Nazi Germany.

Round Up The Usual Suspects discloses that producer Wallis was unhappy with one member of the cast, Dooley Wilson (to whom Bergman said, "play it, Sam," and Bogart said, "play it"). The author remarks: "Wallis kept writing memos that

said, 'well, if we can't do any better...' very late in the movie, he sent a memo saying, 'find me a negro actor who can sing these songs.' He didn't like Dooley Wilson's voice, either."

Mrs. Harnetz, a former film reporter for the New York Times, viewed the film more than a dozen times during her research. She doesn't remember the first time she saw *Casablanca*.

"What I remember very vividly as a small child was listening to the radio on that Academy Award night in 1944 and wanting desperately for Humphrey Bogart to win and being so unhappy when he didn't."

Paul Lukas was named Best Actor for *Watch On The Rhine*.

The lasting success of *Casablanca* has long been analysed. The author be-

lieves the nature of the script-writing was a major element.

"Howard Koch, who was a very serious playwright, wrote it serious. He gave Rick Blaine, (Bogart) a background of running guns to Ethiopia and fighting for the loyalists in the Spanish Civil War. He deepened the politics of it."

"I think the movie intrigues us today partly because of its ambiguity. People still argue whether Ingrid Bergman was really in love with Paul Henreid and only pretending with Bogart. Or whether Bogart was just a little bit relieved when she went off with Henreid."

And did the characters portrayed by Bogart and Bergman sleep together in Paris?

"Absolutely, not only in Paris. They slept together in *Casablanca*. I am quite sure. But the production code was

extremely vigorous at that time. Impure love was not allowed. Even pure love between a husband and wife could not be shown. If they were in bed together, one of them had to keep a foot on the floor," Mrs. Harnetz said.

She said *Casablanca* would have included a sex scene if it were made today. "You know what? The movie wouldn't have some of the ambiguity and sexual tension that it has now," she said.

The final "we will always have Paris" speech was filmed on Stage 1 during a July heat wave.

A heavy spray of movie fog obscured the fact that the waiting airplane was a wooden cutout. To give the plane a proper perspective, Assistant Director Lee Katz had the inspiration of hiring midgets to portray mechanics around the plane.



Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca* (file photo)

## Asian-American groups: Hollywood fosters old ethnic stereotype

By Ernest Sander  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mr. Baseball has no Asian butlers or nurses. Instead, the movie trots out more modern clichés: The freewheeling, brash American running up against the conformist, rigid Japanese, sushi and low ceilings.

Asian-Americans generally don't think the film, starring Tom Selleck as an American on a Japanese baseball team, is anti-Japanese. But many said it's subtly destructive to the Asian image.

"They (Hollywood executives) feel like they need to make an excuse for why there is an Asian in a movie," said Gu Aoki, president of Media Action Network for Asian-Americans.

Asian-Americans in Hollywood make the transformation to such roles as hard-driving businessmen.

aggressive television reporters or nerdy, overachieving students, they say the new roles are as flawed as the old ones.

Indeed, a flip through the film files reveals plenty of examples of movies with Asians who are portrayed as anything from boorish to emotionless to silly: "sub-human military commanders" in *The Bridge Over The River Kwai*; a pidgin English speaking man in *Sixteen Candles*; Chinese mob leaders in *Year Of The Dragon*.

The Association for Asian-Pacific American Artists (AAPAA) gives out its Jimmie Award to movies, television shows, advertisements and companies that project Asian-Americans in a positive light. Past winners include David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*, Alan Parker's *Come See The Paradise* and *The Karate Kid* movies.

But this year no awards were presented. Nothing deserved a nomination, said AAPAA President Wendy Fujiwara Anderson.

And Asian-Americans say that, despite the Jimmie Award recipients, movies like *Year Of The Dragon* are more the norm.

In that 1985 movie, fear of controversy prompted MGM-UA to issue a disclaimer with it. At the time it was released, one Asian actor involved with the movie defended it, remarking how refreshing it was that "so many Asian faces were simply allowed to breathe..."

But these days Asian-Americans say they want to breathe in more realistic ways, and they're not getting enough chances to do that.

The screen actors guild (SAG) reports that 1,170 out of 70,000 members, or about 1.5 per cent, are Asian. By contrast, Asian-Americans

account for about 3 per cent of the country's population.

According to SAG, in 1991 some 50,075 acting jobs were performed, of which 809, or about 1.5 per cent, involved Asian actors. And out of a total 250,950 days worked by actors during the year, 3,584, also about 1.5 per cent, involved Asians. On the production end, 91 of 9,700 members, or less than 1 per cent, of the Directors Guild of America are Asians.

"Most of our clients are Asian-American, born in this country. But most of the parts they go for are as foreigners. They are constantly asked to put on an accent," said Ken White, an assistant at Guy Lee and Associates, a talent agency that represents mostly Asian-American actors. "There are very few roles where the character is actually an Asian without an accent."

Although Mr. White said

the lack of diversity in Asian-American casting is "tiring,"

Asian-Americans are equally concerned that moviegoers may be forming inaccurate perceptions of Asian-Americans.

The Media Action Network's Aoki says Asian-Americans are partly to blame for their ill treatment on the silver screen. An audience is less likely to hear "nigger" or "fag" than "Jap," he said, because Hollywood can use the latter with impunity.

"With Asian-Americans, you can get away with it. They don't fight back," Mr. Aoki said. "Blacks have done a good job of calling people when they think they've been insensitive to them. They've been good at warning people, 'don't mess with us. We have a big enough population and we will come down on you.'"

Tim Dang, director of an all-Asian version of Stephen

Sondheim's *Into The Woods*, said Asian-Americans suffer from disunity.

"We are so fractured. The Chinese, the Japanese, the Koreans we all have our own cultures," Mr. Bang said. "We are trying to learn (to organize) from the African-American groups and the women's groups."

So typecasting continues, and most of those interviewed said they do not expect the practice to change much.

"For the most part, stereotypes are recognizable and clichés work," said Charles Johnson, an executive producer at Universal Pictures.

Janet Yang, vice president of Oliver Stone's *Exile* Production Company, owner of the rights to Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*, also attributed the situation to an unwillingness to take creative chances.

"They only want something if it has already worked," she said.

The only way around this "odd cross between art and commerce," Ms. Yang said, is through actors and characters "that are so outstanding that you almost bypass the racial question."

For Asian-Americans, though, struggling with how to end an intense period of Asian-bashing, the issue of stereotyping transcends "entertainment."

"Because contact (between Asian-Americans and others) is so limited," said Jimmy Tokeshi of the Japanese-American Citizen's League.

"We are left with the caricatures of Asian people who don't speak English well, the corporate predators, the plotters of the secret attack on Pearl Harbor, the academic nerds causing grade curves in the United

States to go up."

Several years ago, Chin, a Chinese-American, was clubbed to death by a couple of unemployed workers in Detroit, the beating, they reportedly railed against, telling him he was a Japanese.

Hollywood is certainly the only reason for the American image of Asians, says the economist. The economic relations between the States and Japan are toxic.

Said Ms. Yang: "The public consciousness, it's all about what racism is about."

## French-language music—a fete for ethnic communities



Princess Erica in concert

Some sing in French. Others do not. They are the music of French language lands and the joyous dance of peoples. "Outside (the metropole), we are the French," says one of them, the Zaire pianist Ray Léma, "because there is nothing Anglo-Saxon about our music."

By Jean-Marc Dupuch

PARIS — The Quebecois sing the same way as they speak, in French. One can hear it. Felix Leclerc and his travelling shoes, Charlebois and Lindbergh's aeroplane, Gilles Vigneault and his land of snow, Diane Dufresne and the man of her life, and Carole Laure and Fabienne Thibault bear witness to the vitality of their community on the North-American continent.

Closer to France, Roch Voisine, a new idol, competes with his Paris cousin, Patrick Bruel, for the adulation of the young, while Richard Desjardins combines lyricism with sarcasm to the rhythm of blues and boogie for popular sages and Morane is, forever, the hero of Starmania.

Even in the United States, "Cajun" music, descended from the French minorities of Louisiana, is in fashion. Af-

ter almost disappearing, it is now very popular on records, and even in gastronomy as "gumbo," a spicy fish soup and local speciality, is a being asked for from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

"It is thanks to music that the Cajuns have once more found their honour," Pete Bergeron, in charge of a local radio station, asserts in L'Evenement De La Musique. "In every family, there has always been at least one musician. On every farm, or nearly, one can find an accordionist or a fiddler. Here people like to enjoy themselves, to eat well and to dance. Let the good times roll, as the saying goes."

Cajun music, to which all ages dance to break-neck rhythms, has its annual festival in Lafayette (in Louisiana) and its stars: Zachary Richard, Steve Riley and his Mamou Playboys, and the

group Beausoleil.

### Rai life

Creole is the language of the black slaves and their descendants. In the French West Indies, the words of zouk are in Creole. Zouk is dance and festivities. It is the pride of the French West Indians. Zouk shakes people up with its spicy percussions and its incandescent brasses. Zouk is the only medicine that we have. "Zouk-La-Sé Sel Médicament Mou Ni" by the Kassav group has sold 100,000 records, one of the best French sellers in the United States.

Haiti also speaks Creole and practises a cult handed down by the slaves, voodoo, whose rites are supposed to exorcise violence. Haiti has its music, "root music," "voodoo-adjae." Adjae calls down dance and trance and

this frenzy takes hold of the spectators who are bewitched by the concerts of the group Boukman Eksperians, which is a great hit in the United States, going against the traditional image of the Haitian immigrant as a slaughterer of hens, drug-trafficker and propagator of AIDS.

Rai is Algerian. "A kind of make-shift combination of poetry and music," deliberately licentious and to be drunk from the veins of peasant wedding songs, and impertinent. They are the voice of joyous revolt. "Rai song," says Cheb Khaled in *Le Monde*, "is gaiety, love and fiesta." Cheb Khaled, the rebel from Oran, Cheb Kader, the Moroccan from Mulhouse and Cheb Mami are the kings of Rai.

From Mali, Mory Kanté, the electric "griot" (storyteller) and Salif Keita, the "noble albinos" are well known.

But Bamako contains of singers, "griots" or children. The "griot" storytellers, singers, providers who are for ceremonies and are the glory of Black Africa. D. ta Kouyaté is a "griot" his father. "The griot," says in "L'Evenement Musique," "has no job. He is neither a civil nor a worker, nor a keeper, nor a farmer. He tells stories."

But, next to this which is still alive, a new modern music, "raï rock," is emerging. It ponds to the unrefined tastes of the young. Di. ké Kofa, the bobo star Bamako says: "The have spoken too much people want to move. Dounawké has people after the Bamako nig. L'Actualite En France

## New star shines despite dark days at the Bolshoi

by Mark Trevelyan  
Reuters

MOSCOW — The grieving families raised aloft the bodies of Romeo and Juliet, the orchestra struck the last tragic chord and the Bolshoi Theatre erupted in rapturous applause.

For Inna Petrova, the cherries and flowers that greeted her debut as Juliet on a swiny Moscow night last month were fitting reward for years of waiting to dance the part and weeks of rehearsal while she feared it could end in a fiasco.

At 25, Petrova is a rising star with one of the world's most prestigious ballet troupes, playing to packed houses at home and abroad as she dances some of the top

roles in the repertoire.

But nowadays in Russia, not even the Bolshoi is immune to economic crisis and a deepening mood of gloom that leaves most people with little time and money for the arts.

"Sometimes when I'm being driven to the theatre I see queues or demonstrations and I think my God, people have such problems, some people have nothing to eat, and I'm off to the theatre. Maybe what I'm doing is no use to anyone?" Petrova said in an interview.

"But when I reflect on it, I feel the opposite: If people stop going to the theatre, communicating spiritually, thinking, taking pleasure in things, then that will be a

kind of moral degradation...so perhaps people need us after all."

A visit to the Bolshoi, with its classical pink facade and lavishly gilt and red velvet interior, is still the cultural highlight of any visit to Moscow — but one that fewer and fewer Russians can afford.

Petrova's monthly salary is 20,000 roubles (\$45) — three times the average wage but equivalent to the black market price of just two good tickets to one of her performances.

On the other hand, she has access to perks like a car and a dacha (country house), and can earn hard currency on lucrative foreign tours. In December, for example, she

will dance Giselle in Italy.

"I can go to a hard currency shop to buy food, but many artists at the theatre can't afford that. Sometimes the performance probably suffers because people on stage are thinking about the problems in their lives instead of thinking about high art," she said.

In appearance, Petrova is strikingly Slav: A thin, delicate face, high cheekbones and long blonde hair. Dancing has been her dream since early childhood, when she tirelessly performed for guests at the family home near the capital.

When she was eight, friends saw a newspaper advertisement for Moscow's top ballet school and urged

her mother to put the gangling little girl forward.

With 50 or more applications for each place, the competition was intense — but she won.

At 17, after gruelling auditions with the Soviet Union's top choreographers and directors, she joined the Bolshoi — the name simply means "big" — and was dancing solo parts within a year.

A classic product of the high-pressure Soviet training system, she was made a leading soloist last year, one of a select group of ballerinas who dance the top roles in the theatre's repertoire.

To play Juliet — a role she had wanted for seven years — Petrova rehearsed almost

day and night for a month and confessed she despaired at first of blending her performance with that of her younger partner Andrei Uvarov.

"To show this whole range of feelings I had to, in a sense, fall in love with this man...at first I couldn't imagine how I would dance with him. He was shy of me and I was shy myself."

"For two weeks nothing was working out at all and I was thinking, my God, I wanted this part so much, am I going to be able to do it? Then we reached a turning point, got used to each other and about a week before the performance I knew it would work out well...thank God it turned out that way."

With every prospect of dancing until she is 35 or even beyond, Petrova hopes to extend her range to include Swan Lake and other leading roles, and has no plans for now to join the exodus of dancers leaving for the West.

"Many people have left recently...not because they didn't like working in the Bolshoi Theatre but because very many, nearly all, didn't like living in our country. They all have families and children. They all want to live better and not to worry for their future and what will happen tomorrow..."

"This theatre, and the teacher I work with, is my life. That's the main thing for me now. I've never thought of going abroad because I get

pleasure from going on here. I like working and we often travel, but the time being this suits me."

More than lyricism or nical brilliance, Petrova it was "a certain Russian soul" that gave country's baller its outing world reputation. "Despite everything happens, all the changes, regimes, presidents, general secretaries, lots of people remain in our country," she said.

"They don't go abroad, they live here, and in what's going on around them they don't lose this reality...they sincerely believe that some day it will get better."



## The 20-gram encyclopedia

By Jean-Claude Elias

The development of the laser technology in the past thirty years is reaching far beyond its original military application back in the sixties. There is hardly a technical field that has not, one way or another, benefitted from it.

The laser principle is deceptively simple. Natural light, contrary to electromagnetic, usually travels in irregular waves. Because of this irregularity, it loses most of its energy.

Laser technology consists of organising these waves and directing them to light its tremendous power and more importantly its great accuracy, measured in fractions of micrometres — 1 millimetre is 1,000 micrometres. The term comes from "Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation."

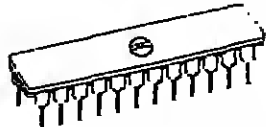
Physicians and surgeons are using more laser techniques every day and some applications have now become routine procedures. Music CD's (compact discs) launched only a few years ago have quickly replaced the traditional "vinyl" records. They are "engraved" and played thanks to the laser beam in the CD player. Perhaps CDs represent the most common and popular laser application.

Surprisingly enough, CD-laser techniques were used for music before being used in computers where they are equally needed. There are different types of computer CDs: CD-ROM, WORM CDs and WE-CD.

CD-ROM — Compact Disc Read Only Memory. This is the most common type. It allows the reading of the manufacturer's pre-recorded data but doesn't allow any erasure or user-recording. Compared to standard computer magnetic hard disks, the CD-ROM is incomparably more reliable, almost perfectly reliable in fact, and one CD can hold a very large amount of data, typically 650 MB — six hundred fifty million characters.

WORM has nothing to do with the crawling animal. Write Once Read Many (WORM) means that the disk comes blank and that the user can record his or her own data on it and naturally can read it as many times as he or she needs to. But because of its very structure, optical, physical, non-magnetic, it is impossible to erase any data once it has been recorded. It is worth noting that it is precisely this impossibility to erase data that gives WORM and CD-ROM an extremely high reliability factor, and also

## chip talk



makes any computer-virus contamination very unlikely.

WE-CD is a magneto-optical disk which still uses laser but is Writable-Erasable. It remains expensive for the private user and has not yet gained much popularity. Its magnetic property drastically reduces its reliability. CD-ROM drives are now commercially available in Jordan, with an average price of JD600 for a complete player that can easily be installed on a Personal Computer (PC). Publishers have immediately seen the possibilities the disk offers. One 20-gram CD-ROM can hold a complete encyclopedia. The advantage is far from being limited to space saving. Once driven by a PC, the disk allows fast search, indexing and cross-referencing — a writer's dream. Some CD-ROMs come with multimedia capability — integration of still image, animated images, sound or music. You can for instance enter a keyword like "elephant" and instantly see the animal on the computer monitor, watch it walk and hear its sound. Or ask for a complete list of the mammals, etc... The CD-ROM is also a blessing for all those who use large directories and catalogues that are not only too heavy to carry but difficult to search, like trade directories, world atlas, drugs catalogues and other data bases that were till now reserved to those who had access to mainframe computers.

While the CD-ROM drive unit is quite affordable, the software — the data you buy on the disk — is not, for the time being at least. Some publishers have priced a single CD-ROM disk as much as the complete CD-ROM player. If the CD-ROM is to become as popular as its cousin, the music CD, furniture designers will have to rethink the shape and size of the bookshelves where we used to store our encyclopedias.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### BITING, BUT CLEVER DEFINITIONS

- COAGULATION:** The only proof that blood is thicker than water.
- COLLISION:** An attempt on the part of two vehicles to occupy the same space at the same time.
- COFFEE:** The morning transfusion.
- CIGARETTE:** A fire at one end, a fool at the other and a bit of tobacco in between.
- CHILD:** Someone who stands halfway between an adult and a TV set.

### AMAZING FACTS

- Charles III of France was called "Charles the Simple."
- Almost one-half of the women in the United States between the ages of eighteen and sixty-four work outside the home.
- Baseball bats are made of ash.
- The planet Jupiter is more than fourteen times larger than Earth.
- The average person in Switzerland eats about eighteen pounds of cheese each year.

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC REQUESTS

- Bring me some books. *Jibli baad el kotob.*
- Give me your watch. *Addini sa'tak.*
- This is my house. *Hada beiti.*
- I want your help. *Ayez tisa'idni.*
- I want to see your father. *Ayez ashoo'f abook.*
- I want to buy a brown jacket. *Ayez ashtri jacketta bonni.*
- I want to eat cooked-beans with olive oil. *Ayez askol fool bezait zaitun.*
- I want to drink coffee without sugar. *Ayez asharab kahwa sada.*
- I don't want a lot. *Mish Ayez kthir.*
- I want a little. *Ayez shwayeh.*
- I want more. *Ayez kaman.*

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE PLANTS

1. Cork is usually obtained from a variety of what well-known tree?
2. What is a herbaceous plant?
3. Are lentils named after lenses, or vice versa?
4. What kind is it that forms the fine powdery film found on fresh grapes?
5. If "fauna" means "animal life," what's the word for "plant life"?

### LAUGH TIME

- I called a specialist, and his secretary said the first appointment she could give me would be in three weeks. "Three weeks!" I exclaimed. "I may be dead by that time!"
- "Oh," said the secretary, "you can always cancel an appointment."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- John d. Rockefeller borrowed a dime from his secretary one day to pay his bus fare home from his office. "Be sure to remind me of this transaction," he said.
- "Oh, that's nothing, Mr. Rockefeller," the secretary replied.
- "Nothing!" exclaimed Rockefeller. "Why, that's two whole years' interest on a dollar!"

See Solutions on page D

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**AFRAID:** A dream of contrary; you will recognise your difficulties and find the courage to overcome them.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**AFTERNOON:** Dream events that happen in the afternoons are generally favourable omens pertaining to personal affairs, but the interpretation depends on the details.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**AGE:** To worry about your age in a dream, or to dream you are or have aged beyond your actual years, indicates you should see a doctor; but to see aged people in a dream is an omen of great good luck. If they are poor or ragged, you may have some difficulties ahead, but you can easily overcome these by positive bold action.

### MY NAME, this is what it means

- HAKKI:** One adhering to truth.
- HAKAM:** The judge; arbiter; umpire.
- HALIM:** Mild-tempered; gentle; patient.
- HAMMAD:** One who praises or lauds too much.
- HAMED, HAMDY and HAMDAN** are also names very near to this meaning.
- HAMZA:** One of the herbaceous plants; legume.
- HAIDAR:** The lion; short.
- YAHYA/HAYYAN:** Two names indicating to live optimistically; the former is a Prophet's name.

### PUZZLES

1. How many times, on average, must a six-sided dice be tossed before every number from one to six comes up at least once.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. Here is something of a record in word squares-eight letters. As this is rather difficult, the first and last words are given. A rosette is someone who ties ribbons on chocolate-boxes (really!) while redless means without council or wisdom, witless.

The clues for the six down words, reading across from left to right (and of course the corresponding words across) are:

1. ANNUL
2. SPANGLED
3. EXPLOSIVE
4. COMMONPLACE
5. COATED
6. RAISES

R	O	S	E	T	T	E	R
O							E
S							D
E							E
T							L
T							E
E							S
R	E	D	E	L	E	S	S

## Nobody's child

By E. Yaghi

When Sam was a small boy, he and his parents emigrated from a small village in the mountains of Lebanon to Ellis Island where the Statue of Liberty is located and also where aliens lose their foreign identity in the process of becoming "Americanised." Before he left, his grandmother baked some fresh bread and wrapped it in white linen in case Sam and his parents got hungry on the way. She also picked some fresh green mint leaves from her garden and packed them between some clothes, giving the suitcases a sweet smell of home. Just before they left, Sam told his grandmother good-bye and wrapped his small arms around her frail figure. He then clasped her withered hands for the last time and looked at her anxious black eyes. "Don't worry, grandmother, I'll come back to see you some day!"

He was both afraid and excited when his boat finally reached the shores of New York. A gigantic statue loomed over him as a vulture looms over its prey. It held the torch of liberty in one hand and silhouetted a rosy sunset in the background which Sam determined looked almost as beautiful as any in Lebanon. He looked at some strange words in a stranger language inscribed at the base of the statue which read:

"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Eventually, Sam's tired and poor family settled in the midwest in an industrial town called Dodge City. His father had once been an Imam and he dreamed of someday building a mosque in America, but first, he had to provide for his young wife and son, so he got a job at the steel works and learned English the hard way. Sam and his parents were branded with the name of foreigner and it took many years for the family to fit in with the American society. Such different customs and culture they had carried with them from so far away and so long ago. Now, Lebanon seemed like just a distant dream of a remote paradise across the sea. While he was growing up, Sam was not only tormented by scenes of his former home, but also by images of his old grandmother with her black coffee eyes, her snow white hair, her homemade bread and the mint leaves she had so carefully packed on the last day she saw her son and his family, before they went off to seek the golden door of the "new country." Would he ever see her again?

Every once in a while, there would be mail from home and Sam would notice how his father ran his fingers over the curled letters that carried news from the old country. After some time, his father started a commercial business and became quite successful. Too, Sam began to fit in more and more with his American peers, but he never forgot his Lebanon. His father kept Islam alive in his home and regular hours were observed for prayer. The family fasted every Ramadan just like they had always done in the mountains of Lebanon and his mother made every effort to preserve an atmosphere of their native country.

By the time he entered high school, Sam discovered among other things, that he was a poet. He showed a remarkable gift of verse and as if out of nowhere, poems flowed from his pen like a river to the sea. And while he began spouting poetic wings, his father started building a small mosque for the tiny Muslim community in Dodge City. He had already planted olive and fig trees and watered them with loving care as if growing them brought his cherished country closer to him. At last, the little mosque was completed and the trees had grown big enough to bear fruit. Sam's father sat on the steps one Autumn afternoon enjoying his accomplishment, basking in the shade of his trees and smelling the crisp pre-winter breeze. Without warning, a bullet struck him in his chest and he fell off the stairs on his face in the mud of his miniature orchard. When Sam raced home from school upon hearing the news, his father had been removed from the pedestal of his mosque and spread out on the dining room table.

"No more letters from home, Dad. What can we ever tell

Grandmother? At least now you are free to wander around the mountains and waters of your beloved homeland," the son whispered to the frozen form.

After his father's death, Sam tried not to be bitter, but how could he ever forget how his father was wrenched from his life because of hate and prejudice? Sam wrote his first real poem on the day of the funeral. Later, he obtained a PhD from an American university and published several volumes of poetry. The first poem in all his books was the poem that he had written about the assassination of his father. During the American siege of Lebanon, Sam again felt hate and bigotry fill the air. By this time he was married and had children of his own. His grandmother had passed away not long after learning of her son's death. Sam had never kept his promise of seeing her again.

"I must go home!" Sam shouted to himself. "I must go home and see my people!"

After the fighting died down, Sam took a plane to Jordan and from there, he travelled by car to the mountains of his former home. For the second time in his life, he saw death. But he had never felt it on such a large scale. Everywhere he looked, the rich dark earth was torn and bleeding, houses were either demolished or pieces of them jutted out in gruesome columns like ghostly figures. The reality of war sunk in his mind like a heavy weight. When Sam went to his village, he searched for his grandmother's home. He was horrified to find nothing standing. It was a treacherous rubble. His whole neighbourhood was like a huge graveyard. Not too far from his old house, he noticed some books scattered about. He went to look at them and being curious, he probed a bit in the ruins of the house that had collapsed. Half buried in the blood-streaked dirt, lay a baby shoe next to fragments of a mortar which bore the label, "made in the U.S.A."

"Who does this shoe belong to? Sam wondered. "Whatever happened to the foot that belonged to the shoe? Whatever happened to the father and mother of the baby that never grew up? And what would this baby have been, a handsome bridegroom, a beautiful bride? Is this baby now an angel in heaven? No one knows!"

He stayed for two weeks in the mountain village. He talked to many people and they told him their stories of the horrors of war that they had suffered. Above, the sky still seemed the same, so calm and peaceful, and the birds still sang in the trees as if there had never been such devastation and people moved forward with their lives because they had no other choice, but war was written on their faces and recorded in their hearts. Just before he left, Sam didn't pack any green mint leaves in his suitcase or take fresh loaves of bread with him in case he got hungry. Instead, he brushed the dirt of Lebanon off the baby shoe and placed it gently in his suitcase between his clothes.

After he returned to America, he wrote a new volume of poetry in dedication to the victims of the war in Lebanon. He was asked to present his poems at a poetry recital at an honoured guest. As he spoke to his attentive audience, he tried to control his anger and his face grew red when he read the lines of his latest poem called, Nobody's Child.

The last lines of his poem went as follows:

"This shoe doesn't belong to me.  
It isn't my shoe.  
This shoe doesn't belong to you either.  
For it's not your shoe.  
This shoe is our shoe.  
And it belongs to all of us!  
Nobody's child is our child,  
We are responsible for its death!"

When he read those lines, he remembered his assassinated father and the many dead babies and their lost shoes. He remembered the carnage and horror of war. He remembered the hate and the torn bodies and lives and the injustice of the continuing conflict in the Middle East. What good does this never-ending slaughter of Arabs do for the progress of mankind and what destiny is he to have when innocent people are daily slaughtered? Sometimes to Sam, the lamp lifted beside the golden door seemed mighty dim.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 17	Home Videos	Michael in an old English palace.	Wednesday, Dec. 23
8:30 Uncle Buck	9:00 Perspective	10:00 News In English	8:30 Saved By The Bell
Thea takes the rap for a felony committed by her friend, but the friend admits her guilt in the end.	9:30 Varieties	10:20 The Dismissal	9:00 Spotlight
9:10 Civil Wars	10:00 News In English	<b>Tuesday, Dec. 22</b>	9:30 James Randy
The cases are those of a couple who wants to split their property; another couple who jointly own a restaurant and two brothers who are contesting their father's will.	10:20 Feature Film	8:30 Golden Girls	Psychometry And Graphology
10:00 News In English	Blind Judgement	The girls participate in a charity auction for the benefit of sick children.	Do we leave 'emotional imprints' on personal objects like keys, watches and clothing? Can personality and job suitability be discovered from handwriting? And is it right that your career could depend on it? In this new series on the paranormal psychic investigator, magician, escapist and psychic researcher James Randi looks at "Psychometry and graphology." "Tonight we're investigating claims that some people can reveal personality, emotional life and even career possibilities by examining your personal possessions," says Randi. Graphology — the art of analysing handwriting — and psychometry — the 'reading' of psychic imprints on objects — are tested in front of a studio audience. Leading graphologist Duncan McIntosh hopes to demonstrate his expertise in the studio. Five volunteers line up. Armed only with handwriting samples, Duncan hopes to match each one with their jobs. Will he succeed?
10:20 Movie Of The Week	Starring: Lesley Warren and Jean Smart	9:10 Malignet	10:00 News In English
Love Is A Ball	<b>Sunday, Dec. 20</b>	Malignet Sets A Trap	10:20 Feature Film
Starring: Glenn Ford and Hope Lange	8:30 Family Matters	In Montmartre a killer has struck five times, and his victims are always young women. Malignet has no lead in the case, and decides on a desperate measure. He plans to set a trap to lure the killer into the open. The newspapers report that the killer has been captured, and that evening men and women from the police force flood into the area and wait for him to strike again.	The Ambassador's Daughter
<b>Friday, Dec. 18</b>	Body Damage	A policewoman is attacked, she defends herself, and almost captures the man. He escapes but, in the struggle, a button and piece of cloth are torn from his suit. These lead to Moncin, a young designer. He no longer has the suit, but Malignet is convinced he is the killer. He takes him into custody. But then there is another murder.	Starring: John Forsythe
8:30 Too Close For Comfort	Rachel will damage the old police car during the night.	10:00 News In English	Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus
9:10 Equal Justice	9:10 National Geographic Documentary	10:20 Law And Order	
End Game	The Miraculous	Star Struck	
The prosecutors work on the case of a young black man accused of murdering two white men.	10:00 News In English	Monday, Dec. 21	
10:00 News In English	10:20 Columbo	8:30 Step By Step	
10:20 Columbo	Rest In Peace Mrs. Columbo	Pulling Together	
11:10 Mr. Bean	9:10 A Fine Romance	Double Indignity	
<b>Saturday, Dec. 19</b>	Double Indignity	The adventures of Louisa and	
8:30 America's Funniest	The adventures of Louisa and		



## Too much noise not only causes illness, it can also impair intellectual powers

By Elke Bruser

**PHONOPOLLUTION** is what the Americans call noise pollution, or the type of din which serves no useful purpose but which more and more people have to live with. It is usually a by-product of progress, especially in transport, in the ever-increasing use of technology at work and not least in the world of domestic appliances. Gerald Fleischer of Giessen University department of anatomy and phytobiology describes it as acoustic machine waste.

A recent study of noise pollution caused by inner-city road traffic carried out recently by the Berlin municipal department of urban development and environmental protection confirms the hazard.

It did not deal with the well-known harmful effects of noise on health, such as high blood pressure, an increased risk of heart attacks or incurable damage to hearing, but with aspects like increased nuisance and reduced quality of life.

The findings give cause for concern. Many Berlin apartments, around 40 per cent in all, are on main roads, where it is almost always too noisy. In about 95 per cent of the rooms facing the road the recommended maximum level of 65 decibels is exceeded during the daytime.

In a fifth of these apartments the level is exceeded by as much as ten decibels. Because decibels are measured logarithmically, this means that the noise level is ten times higher than the authors of the study, who are proven experts in questions of acoustics and road transport, consider reasonable.

The noise experts leave no room for doubt as to the significance of this excessive noise: "As a rule the win-

dows have to be kept shut even in the daytime...in order to conduct a normal conversation."

Even at night the noise levels in the main roads are too high: "The recommended maximum level of 55 decibels is exceeded in almost all the road sections we studied." It is perfectly understandable that many residents try to escape this noise terror by keeping their radios, TVs or music on all day long and wherever possible turning the volume up loud. This doesn't make it any quieter, and is another strain on their neighbours' nerves.

Those with double glazing or double windows can count themselves lucky. They can hear better in the daytime and sleep more peacefully at night. But Fleischer warns that so-called noise protection measures are usually of less benefit to victims than to culprits: motorists can still keep their foot on the accelerator.

At the same time, traffic noise levels could easily be halved by one immediate measure which is at the same time cheap, energy- and life-saving. The authors of the Berlin study recommend that as a "measure to decrease traffic noise pollution" account be taken of the fact "that a speed limit reduction from 50 to 30 kilometres per hour would mean a 2.5 decibel decrease in perceived noise levels." In other words, it would be only half as noisy.

Pedestrians would benefit from this too. The Berlin study data confirm the extent to which they are affected on busy roads. "In the pedestrian areas of these streets it is only possible to make oneself heard by raising one's voice." Psychologists Gerda Lazarus of Bochum University and Hans Lazarus, noise expert at the Federal Health and Safety Office in Dortmund, established several years ago how people affected by disturbing noise levels try to drown them out.

People automatically speak louder, they articulate sounds more slowly and the pauses become longer. The listener too has to make a greater effort. He has to strain his ears to hear. "In the long term it becomes unbearable for both," says Hans Lazarus.

Noise does not only affect communication but also concentration and, independently of that, intellectual performance. This is well-known in the case of noisy offices and has been confirmed by tests on schoolchildren. According to Japanese and American studies, children who grow up and attend school in areas affected by noise are at a disadvantage when learning to read. Because it is harder for them to distinguish noises clearly with their hearing they do not perform as well.

The fact that they are less able to master tasks requiring thought than school-children from quieter areas, and in addition work more slowly and tire more quickly, is put down by scientists to the damage their concentration has suffered. Both acute disturbances, as for example through aircraft flying over schools in the proximity of airports, and chronic exposure to noise in noisy residential areas play a part in this.

"The function of attentive-ness can be appropriately explained using the channel model," says August Schick of the Institute for Research into Human-Environment Relations at Oldenburg University. According to this model, information from the sensory organs has to be passed through a restricted channel in order to be processed in

the brain. If too many messages try to get in at once, the way through quickly becomes blocked.

People who do their work, including intellectual work, to music know that it is not just a matter of the quantity of information entering but of the acoustic quality of the sound. So what is it that makes tones into a disturbing noise?

"Some of these sound characteristics are known to us," explains August Schick. "We are trying to get to the bottom of others within the framework of a post-graduate study group on psycho-acoustics, sound evaluation and effects of sound funded by the Scientific Research Association (DFG).

Naturally the degree of nuisance depends on the noise level. But there are other qualities which are particularly unpleasant: for example, a penetrating whistle in the sound, as with the old steam kettles, or sudden reverberating noises like those we know from low-flying aircraft or firing range practice, and finally rough, grinding noises like the screeching of a car's tyres as it gets off to a flying start."

Apart from the physical characteristic of the noise, the effect depends on whether the individual elements combine to form a melodious whole. Few people are disturbed by a harmonious pattern of sounds.

"Differences in individual judgement should not be underestimated," says Schick. "What gets on one person's nerves puts someone else in a good mood or has a soothing effect."

Only the beginnings of how this happens have been researched. "The fact that we only perceive sounds in meanings plays a role," Schick explains. Thus a nightingale singing early in the

morning does not usually disturb anyone, whereas screeching car tyres do.

Probably the fact that human beings automatically try to make sense of what they hear damages their attentiveness when it is too noisy. The work of interpreting diverts them from the actual task.

We can learn how important this aspect of sound perception is from people with learning difficulties, who are frequently unable to put sounds in order. "Loud noises often put them into a terrible panic. We know this from homes where low-flying aircraft thunder overhead," says Schick, who emphasises the right of people with learning difficulties to lead a peaceful existence. Small children too experience fear when they are surprised by unknown noises.

In researching the disturbing effects of noise it is also important to remember that it is a social occurrence, created and borne by human beings. It is often combined with quite different problems, particularly in the case of neighbour nuisance.

Wilfried Belschner, a health psychologist at Oldenburg University, has analysed more than 1,200 letters of complaint on behalf of the German Noise Abatement Society (DAL) in Düsseldorf. What surprised him more than anything was the fact that there is often a bigger problem underlying a complaint about a neighbour's noise.

The complainants often feel like victims of their environment. Whether or not next door's lawnmower is perceived as a nuisance does not only depend on the time of day, the racket the motor makes and the size of the lawn, but also on the relationship between the neighbours themselves. A friend is given more latitude than a foe.

DAL acoustics expert De-

## Breastfeeding — the 'new' contraceptive

FOR GENERATIONS, women have noticed the protection breastfeeding can provide against pregnancy. Now scientists are taking a closer look at nature's contraceptive method.

Performed correctly, breastfeeding provides 98 per cent protection against pregnancy for at least six months after a mother gives birth, scientists say, provided a few simple rules are followed. This "new" method is considered to be as effective, or even more so, than many other available contraceptive methods, scientists say in a new issue of *Network*, a bulletin published by a U.S.-based non-profit research organisation called Family Health International (FHI).

For the method to work, mothers need to be "fully or nearly fully" breastfeeding. Contraception is assured only until one of three events happen: The mother's menstrual period resumes, she begins feeding her infant a significant amount of food other than breastmilk, or six months has passed since her child was born. Once any of the three occurs, a mother should begin using another contraceptive method to assure protection against pregnancy.

The method, called the "lactational amenorrhea method" (LAM), has been endorsed by an international gathering of family planning experts, after numerous studies demonstrated its effectiveness. Some experts believe the method is dependable beyond six months and should be considered in effect as long as a mother's periods have not resumed. Another international meeting is being planned to discuss their views.

"Reliance on lactational amenorrhea is not the right contraceptive method for all breastfeeding women, and it is a time-limited one," says Kathy Kennedy, an FHI researcher. "Those who prefer another option should use it. But the information about LAM should be available to all breastfeeding women so that they can make a well-informed decision."

Breastfeeding suppresses fertility by inhibiting ovulation. This is achieved by a sufficient degree of nipple stimulation from breastfeeding, which affects a hormone that controls ovulation.

"In areas of the world where modern contraceptives are either unaffordable or unobtainable, breastfeeding

becomes a vital in achieving adequate spacing and reducing mortality," Dr. Roger of Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, an editorial appearing in *Network*. "The challenge for the future is to protect, promote and support breastfeeding both developing and developed countries, for its major health benefits for the mother and her but for its contraceptive effect."

Breastfeeding is on the decline in many parts of the world, especially in areas where more work outside the home from their infants. Yet, Latin American countries Honduras, efforts to promote breastfeeding for its national value show that feeding can be encouraged. From 1981 to 1987, a campaign to educate more workers about breastfeeding resulted in new hospital policies and practices ending its use. The post mothers who breastfed increased to 93 per cent, and the campaign's goal of 80 per cent.

"The message has out that breastfeeding for the baby and good mother, and also good hospitals," Dr. Pity on FHI researcher who on the Honduras said in *Network*. He said substantial more infant formula and as well as a reduction in time.

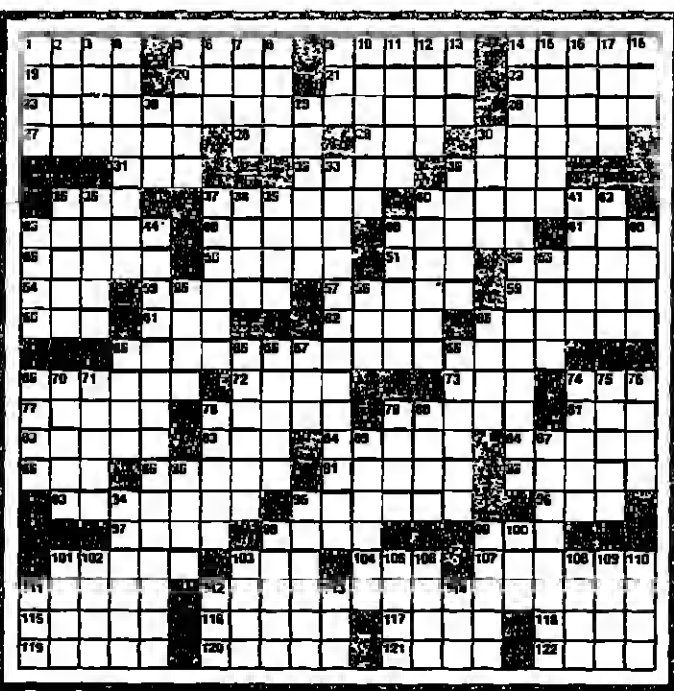
In recent years, concern has arisen in breastfeeding — the HIV infection can be "mitted" through breast milk. Experts estimate that one-third of the babies worldwide to HIV women become infected themselves.

Such transmission can place within a mother's womb, during delivery through breastfeeding, harder to transmit through breastmilk through blood or milk but there is some transmission," Dr. Ma Oxtoby of the U.S. Center for Disease Control told experts say the greater risk from malnutrition other diseases mean even mothers with should continue to breast when safe and effective alternatives are not possible. — Family Health International.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

HOW SHOCKING!  
By Dorothy B. Martin

- ACROSS**
1. Thanks —
  2. Fire in place
  3. Mocha means
  4. Imaginative
  5. Cordelia's father
  6. Operatic solo
  7. Excuse
  8. At no time
  9. Pleasant surprise
  10. Help talk
  11. Attract
  12. April
  13. Period before an event
  14. Cream of the crop
  15. It is so
  16. No soul
  17. Cardinal point
  18. Occupation of a chair
  19. Concerning
  20. Stretched
  21. Sun
- DOWN**
1. Soprano Gluck of
  2. Grasslands
  3. Sherry loves
  4. Church
  5. Resolute
  6. Crude metal
  7. Seine tributary
  8. Indian polio
  9. Ham and
  10. Church officials
  11. Stick in the mud
  12. Black, to poets
  13. Chiff
  14. Without a
  15. Report a case
  16. Grandparent
  17. Taper or wigwag
  18. Work unit
  19. Lubricate
  22. A jolly good fellow
  23. Old adding device
  24. Gasoline, e.g.
  25. Guess or
  26. Waugh
  27. Fixed gaze
  28. "I am I, saw"
  29. Ultimate
  30. Traveled way
  31. Gown
  32. Ring
  33. Unusual for
  34. Bard
  35. Dignity, for one
  36. Turn down
  37. In a way
  38. Fashion
  39. Endorse
  40. Outcome
  41. Earlike handle
  42. In a prewar
  43. Auto pioneer
  44. Inexplicable
  45. Island, NY
  46. Clear up
  47. Orange yellow
  48. Bird's nest
  49. Soccer great
  50. Given lead
  51. Chest
  52. Beverage nut
  53. Tush
  54. Wild plant
  55. Alabaster
  56. Sufferer
  57. Fit about
  58. Blank part
  59. Spherical
  60. Convert into
  61. Leather



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Kid's top got stuck at posthole, stop sticky glob of bubbly tar, so that it could not split freely.
2. With homonym, I would rather wear two bulky mules than ride one bally mule.
3. Aging female figure shakes takes a number of ballet lessons to keep herself in top shape.
4. Hint: No letter in these cryptos can appear only once.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. URDS'B BIEH IMPLF ESKWEX UIA UNFBBFV  
WC VELD HAVEC BIF BMBF QIECGMX  
QMCC AG ASXC EUPFF AN DA ELA?

—By Lois H. Jones

2. CEPL JEJL JEJUP HAIEYIQ BEPL  
IRHAULIY EN AUKA CUU BTND DTY  
BTAQ EPNTKY.

—By Earl Ireland

3. GSUAB IW LZA BSSD FULTILO WOLYS  
GOLJ GSUAB LZAES JTDSEF, FULZ O  
WORRYS OAB AT BOATA.

—By Barbara J. Rogg

4. OZICVZW, DERXG ORIVAXL IER TSM.  
LXICVT IVM TSM DSB WSA, IVM LGILX  
CL CV I VALXGRZZ.

—By Gordon Miller

Diagramless 19 x 19, By James Barriick

- ACROSS**
1. Fresh stone
  2. Foulish fellow
  3. Cotton
  4. Very large
  5. Show
  6. "Whom the bell tolls"
  7. Boleterous
  8. Disturbance
  9. Sequester region
  10. Mutt
  11. Poppy or vote
  12. Unwillingness
  13. Witty
  14. Rural
  15. Lullaby
  16. Possessive
  17. Came to a close
  18. Ride
  19. Nursery item
  20. Deludes
  21. Unusual for
  22. Bard
  23. Dignity, for one
  24. Turn down
  25. In a way
  26. Fashion
  27. Endorse
  28. Outcome
  29. Earlike handle
  30. Take place
  31. Sweet potato
  32. Indefinitely long
  33. Wanderers of a kind
  34. Personal effects
  35. Fly stone
  36. Gravel
  37. Rigid
  38. — the line

- DOWN**
1. Not ready
  2. The terrible
  3. Examination
  4. Opposing one
  5. Thrill
  6. Springhouse
  7. Cut down
  8. Kind of toast
  9. Throw in a curve
  10. Skin or cotton
  11. Poppy or vote
  12. Unwillingness
  13. Witty
  14. Rural
  15. Lullaby
  16. Possessive
  17. Came to a close
  18. Ride
  19. Nursery item
  20. Deludes
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  38. — the line

## Researchers develop skin substitute; no signs of rejection

By Wilhelm Irsch

**SURGEONS** have been fervently looking for skin substitutes for years and usually use a combined product of artificial materials and natural skin components. At the Clinic for Burn and Plastic Surgery of the Rhenish-Westphalian Institute of Technology in Aachen, a promising alternative to this composite skin has been developed further by Professor Rolf Hettich and his working group.

It is based on the great breakthroughs of Chinese scientists in the Seventies. Patients, whose skin was almost completely burned, could be saved by transplanting so-called composite skin. During a project of several years' duration, and sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Research and Technology, BMFT, the scientists in Aachen have also developed a device with which this composite skin can be produced.

Human skin consists of two layers: the top layer or epidermis, and the inner skin, referred to in the medical profession as the corium. Superficial skin wounds usually heal spontaneously, whereby the cells of the epidermis multiply, thus closing the wound without leaving a scar. However, when the inner skin or the underlying tissue is damaged, scars, which can knit together, form upon closure of the wound.

Now demands are placed on the surgeon to remove the damaged tissue and cover the wound by means of a skin graft. With a fine "electric plane" he removes the intact skin, which is, at most, 0.3 millimetres thick and which consists of equal proportions of epidermis and corium.

These grafts can normally be transplanted onto the wound without any difficulties because both the covered wound and the donor site usually heal well.

However, difficulties can arise when there is not enough healthy skin on the body to cover the burnt areas. "Then there is no alternative but to turn to composite skin: Strips of skin from donors which are perforated at intervals of approximately three centimetres. Epidermal skin from the patient is inserted into the holes. If there is reason to spare the patient such treatment, epithelial cells from the epidermis can be multiplied in a test tube. Unlike skin grafts from a donor, this foreign corium skin is not rejected. On the contrary, it fuses with the endogenous epithelial cells to form a healthy skin substitute, as the researchers in Aachen have established in animal experiments and from observations of human patients. As regards quality, however, they do not consider the transplantation of composite skin to be on a par with endogenous skin, but it is a significant alternative to the hitherto conventional methods of replacing skin.

Although this composite skin has thus far been prepared meticulously by hand, it is now possible to produce it mechanically, which is not only of assistance to surgeons in their race against time, but is also conducive to improving the quality. A computer-controlled machine punches holes in the donor's skin and fills them with the patient's skin cells, which have been cultured in a test tube — The German Research Service.

## SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. (Cork oak). (*Quercus suber*)
2. A seed-producing plant that does not develop persistent woody tissue and dies down at the end of the growing season.
3. Vice versa. (The lentil, *lens* in Latin, was a common food long before Alhazeni described the magnifying effect of lenses, around A.D. 1030).
4. Wild yeast.
5. Flora.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUZZLES

- (1) FIVE. Each value appears on an even number of squares-eight. Inside the chain the values match pairs, therefore a 5 at one end of the chain must be matched by 5 at the other end.
- (2) A WORD SQUARE

R	O	S	E	T	E	R
O	V	E	R	R	U	L
S	E	Q	U	I	N	E
E	R	U	P	T	I	V
T	R	I	T	I	C	A
T	U	N	I	C	A	T
E	L	E	V	A	T	E
R	E	D	E	L	E	S



## Features

### Leftist group denied licence

(Continued from page 1)

The people against the... of and-democratic forces... in our society," he told Jordan Times.

Two weeks ago. Both have said they would appeal the decision in court. JDPD officials said they would appeal to the government to retract its decision.

### Peace talks await Clinton

(Continued from page 1)

ties for the past two... but to no avail," said Hilal, head of the PLO mission office in Tunis.

da, Syria described the document as a setback to what had been achieved thus far. Neither side would elaborate.

### Brainis promised a majlis

(Continued from page 1)

polices and programmes... to government action... drew its march and per-

provinces first elect three representatives from which the ruler then chooses one for the Oman majlis.

### Idea secured for relief work

(Continued from page 1)

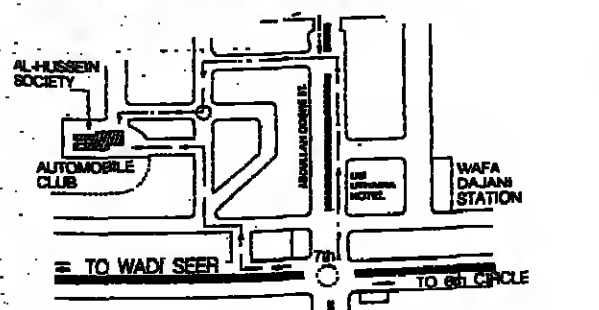
ican position will evolve to... this," government spokes-

men was not part of the mission of its troops.

### THE AL-HUSSEIN SOCIETY FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

will continue its annual bazaar on Sunday... 20th, 1992, from 10:00 to 1:00, at Hussein Society, 7th Circle, behind the Royal Automobile Club.

International Bake sale  
★ Decoration ★  
★ Handicrafts ★ Gift Items ★  
Tel.: 817599-8/817613



## Is the injustice of the civilised world to be repeated?

By Pascal B. Karmy

IT IS all very well for some Arab and Muslim states and organisations to raise hue and cry against the intervention in Somalia by the American, European and other forces under the United Nations Security Council authority and its flag and to stamp this intervention as new colonialism.

thing in comparison to the assistance and supplies contributed by the western countries.

during which neither had agreed to concede an iota of his power or authority to the other?

Muslim Bosnians against the onslaught of the Serbs. The picture of events as I see it in Bosnia is indeed very similar to the sad events which took place in 1948.

against the well-armed Jews who had already occupied the majority of the Palestinian territory.

have been refugees since 1948. It is high time for the Arabs to wake up from their lethargy and not simply be satisfied with blown-up declarations and statements with no concrete and effective means to put them into force.

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## Rallytour to be held Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Insurance Rallytour, which will be held Friday Dec. 18, will be the season's final auto sports event organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

The rallytour, the results of which will be entered in the Jordan Drivers' Open Championship, does not depend on car specifications or high speed but split second timing in navigation over a route which will be announced at the start.

For the first time in auto sports events in Jordan, 24 handicapped participants will be competing in the rallytour. They will take part in the second half of the event which starts at the Alia Gateway Hotel at Queen Alia International Airport. Each handicapped participant will be sponsored by an individual or company for a cost of JD 250. Proceeds of the rallytour will be donated to Al Mustaqbal Club for the Physically Handicapped.

The 55 participants in the rallytour will set off from RACJ headquarters at 10 a.m. Friday morning. The second stage will begin at 1 p.m. Results of the rallytour will be announced at the prize giving ceremony Saturday evening.



Defending champion Paul Accola

## Tomba leads cup standings

MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, Italy (AP) — Alberto Tomba may be feeling in the wrong place.

He's still winless this World Cup season, but he's reached the top of the standings.

Tomba, 25, suffered his fifth consecutive upset when he finished second to young Frenchman Patrice Bianchi in a slalom in this Italian Dolomite Resort.

The skier known as "la bomba," or the bomb, for his aggressive style, once again was overcautious in one of the two runs and missed the top spot by 0.11 seconds.

About 10,000 fans from Tomba's region of Emilia came to cheer him on, picnicking on toasted bread and ham.

Along with the experts, they were baffled at the unexpected brought for Tomba, the only skier to have won consecutive

Olympic titles, in Calgary and Albertville.

Tomba placed second and third in two previous giant slaloms and had a spill, a seventh and a second place in slaloms.

This year was Tomba's worst start since 1987. Last season he had four wins and two runner-up places after the initial six gate races.

Eight races, including two downhill and one Super G, have been raced so far this season.

Defending cup champion Paul Accola of Switzerland was a distant 17th in the race and 13th overall. He trailed Tomba by 120 points.

Tomba said his leadership should be short lived.

He can load up on points in a giant slalom and a slalom scheduled in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, over the weekend.

He turns 26 on Saturday, and said he hoped to celebrate his birthday with his first season victory.

The cup calendar in January, including three downhill, one Super G and three combined, is expected to boost overall points of Marc Girardelli, Accola and Norwegian Kjetil Andre Aamodt.

Ashe, 49, the most prominent black male tennis player in history, has also distinguished himself by his commitment to ideals and his courage in the face of two life-threatening illnesses — AIDS and heart disease.

In accepting the award, Ashe hailed Jackie Robinson and Bill Bradley among his inspirations for his commitment to political and social causes.

"They were people who after their active days as an athlete were finished decided they were not finished," Ashe said of Robinson, who broke the colour barrier in major league baseball, and Bradley, who became a U.S. senator after a successful professional basketball career.

Ashe won the U.S. Open in 1968 and finished the year ranked number one. He won the Australian Open in 1970 and upset Jimmy Connors to win the Wimbledon Crown in 1975. He is still the only black man to have won those Grand Slam events.

He founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS, receiving support throughout the tennis world in his bid to raise \$5 million starting with a start-studded exhibition just before the U.S. Open.

He recently received the AIDS leadership award from the Harvard AIDS Institute.

Ashe has also been an outspoken opponent of South Africa's apartheid policies and has written a three-volume history of black athletes. "A Hard Road to Glory: A History of African-American Athletes."

"He has always stood up and always been counted for," Mulvey said. "The South Africa thing, his health, the world of tennis. They don't make them like that anymore."

He was inducted into the tennis hall of fame in 1985, six years after a heart attack forced his retirement. He had a quadruple bypass operation in 1979 and a double bypass in 1983. Still, he served from 1981-1985 as U.S. Davis Cup captain.

But Ashe made the biggest headlines of his life earlier this year when he announced that he had the AIDS virus.

Ashe, who said he apparently contracted the virus from a blood transfusion he received during his second bypass, became a high profile activist in the campaign to find an AIDS cure.

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## Chess legend Bobby Fischer indicted

WASHINGTON (R) — Chess legend Bobby Fischer was indicted Tuesday on one criminal charge for defying U.S. and U.N. sanctions by playing a match against rival Boris Spassky in Yugoslavia, a prosecutor announced.

U.S. attorney Jay Stephens told a news conference that Fischer was charged with violating the international emergency economic powers law by engaging in a commercial transaction in Yugoslavia.

President George Bush, acting in accordance with U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, in June barred U.S. citizens from engaging in certain commercial transactions with Yugoslavia.

"At a time where there is a grave international crisis in Yugoslavia ... it is not too much

to ask that Bobby Fischer comply with U.S. law instead of lining his own pockets," Stephens said. "Bobby Fischer, like anyone else, should be held accountable for his actions."

Stephens said a warrant has been issued for Fischer's arrest. He reportedly has remained in Yugoslavia.

Stephens said the United States has an extradition treaty with Yugoslavia, but was unsure if Fischer would be turned over.

Fischer became a legend in chess when he beat the Soviet champion Spassky 30 years ago in Reykjavik, Iceland to become world champion.

After emerging from self-imposed seclusion in September, he again beat Spassky, now a French citizen, by 10 games to five, in a marathon rematch that ended in November.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 1st division basketball matches to be played Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four matches will be played Thursday in the First Division Basketball Championship organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF). Al Orthodoni play Al Watan and Homenment play Al Jazireh in Amman, while Al Abbasi play Al Hussein and Al Ahli play Al Jalil in Irbid.

#### French Motorcycling Grand Prix axed

GENEVA (R) — The 1993 French Motorcycling Grand Prix was scrapped Wednesday because of the country's tough new laws on tobacco advertising. The International Motorcycling Federation said the decision had been taken jointly with the organisers and promoters of the Grand Prix circuit. The move follows the decision last week by the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) to strike the French Formula One race off their world championship calendar. FISA said there were no guarantees cars and equipment would not be seized after a French court decision to fine the Williams team \$5.6 million for carrying cigarette advertising in the Australian Grand Prix which was screened in France.

#### WBA championship belts stolen

CARACAS (AP) — An awards ceremony Tuesday for welterweight boxing champion Christiano Espana was cancelled after his victor's belt was stolen at gunpoint from a boxing official. Also stolen were the prize belt for the winner of the WBA flyweight title match Tuesday between Aquiles Guzman and David Griman of Venezuela and a belt belonging to Guzman, said Alberto Sarmiento, a WBA executive.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Only by being charming and especially considerate in your actions with others will you be able to overcome the triple Moon square to Uranus, Neptune and Mars that is ruling the day.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You would be wise to do so attend to your usual routines that one of a different background to your own will be impressed and lend you much support.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many good ideas where adding to your present good things of life are concerned so be prepared to put them into immediate effect for best results.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use this time to find out exactly where you stand with those whom you regard as partners and by the deeds they are performing, not just from words.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get a better insight into the pleasures which can both bring you a good time as well as be profitable otherwise to you now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can do those things today of an outside nature that will make whatever your vocational activities more operative to handle and successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your aspirations to have every-

thing on a basis that is comfortable to you can easily be put in motion with just a little extra thought on your part.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Consider all phases and aspects of your practical problems now and do nothing in a rush or you miss out on some benefit awaiting your acceptance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have the chance to find out just what changes your attachment would like you or both of you to make in order to gain some long range objectives.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you want to get along well with a restless and vivacious associate it is necessary you be more open to listen to that persons stand-points.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the day for you to use all of those excellent angles that are so apture for you in achieving whatever your intimate purposes happen to be.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You will have to walk a tightrope today to avoid some run- as where a member of your family; and an influential outsider are concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Some situation is come to light that make you wonder just how you will handle them but think in terms of what adds to your basic security and all will be well.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
AND TAMMAM HIRSHCH  
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#### SHOW AND TELL

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NOTRTE

♠ A 2

♥ 3 2

♦ K 9 6 5

♣ K J 9 3

WEST

♠ 4

♥ A 10 7 5

♦ 10 8 7 4

♣ K 7 6 2

EAST

♠ 9 8 5

♥ Q J 9 8 6 4

♦ Void

♣ A 10 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10 7 6 3

♥ Void

♦ A Q J 3 2

♣ 8 5

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass 1 C 4 V

4 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass

Pass 5 ♠ Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣

Usually, the auction is a vehicle to describe your holding to partner. However, once in a while a situation develops where you can use the bidding for lead direction. This hand comes to mind.

With the vulnerability favoring neither side, West decided on a full-blooded four-heart preempt after South overcalled East's one-heart

opening bid with one spade. An unimaginative East would have simply bid five hearts competitively. The better action is to make a lead-directing bid of five diamonds—since it is impossible that you would want to play in diamonds after locating an excellent heart fit, the bid can only be to direct the defense. Absolutely be to direct the defense. Absolutely be to direct the defense.

West led a low diamond and East could make five hearts as the cards lie, but not six. And East's double confirmed the fact a diamond lead was wanted.

Had East bid a lazy five hearts, West would surely have led a heart and declared would have had no problem raking in 11 tricks. After the lead-directing bid, however, the killing defense was easy.

West led a low diamond and East ruffed. Obviously, the defense were not going to get any tricks in hearts. Since West's lead of a low diamond showed a potential entry in the lower-ranking side suit, in this case clubs, East decided to trust partner and protect against South holding a singleton club by returning a low club. In with the king, West gave partner another diamond ruff and the ace of clubs completed a two-trick set.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the Moon Trine Venus and Saturn, conjunct Jupiter the responsibilities you have that seem difficult, won't be if you get at them early in the day and cooperate fully with others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look for some inspiration within yourself by which you can make a greater expression of the abundance which is necessary for you to have the things you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well your own need for more beauty and harmony in your life and you can see ways to gain it, then carry through despite some obstacles.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take some time out now to quietly but effectively get into the behind the scenes activities that must be conscientiously done before you can go forward.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with an understanding friend early and let that person know your intimate aims, then don't try to tell him/her how to get them for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get together with a bigwig this morning to let your capabilities be known and then you can get some respect so they can bring you more worldly acclaim.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Start your drive toward that new growth and development in your life or breakfast and keep it despite problems.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) A close companion you the way to gain material ways to additional purposes to that follow exactly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you are able to get along with a plan you joint benefit.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to let whatever your early and to let it evening to achieve constructive.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can best means by which you can dreams come true.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time to forget yourself in the busy and to let the roof would like you to do through with their own.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever your aims have agreed to do or will boost in the right direction be put into motion, as

new growth and development in your life or breakfast and keep it despite problems.

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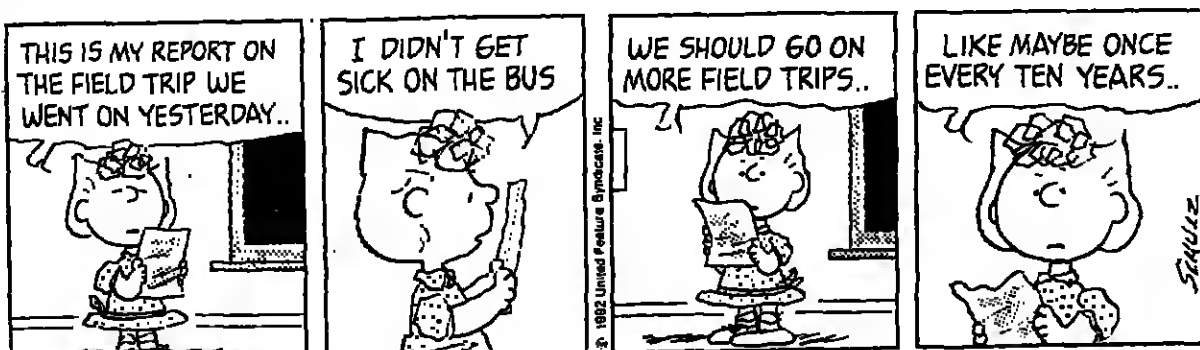


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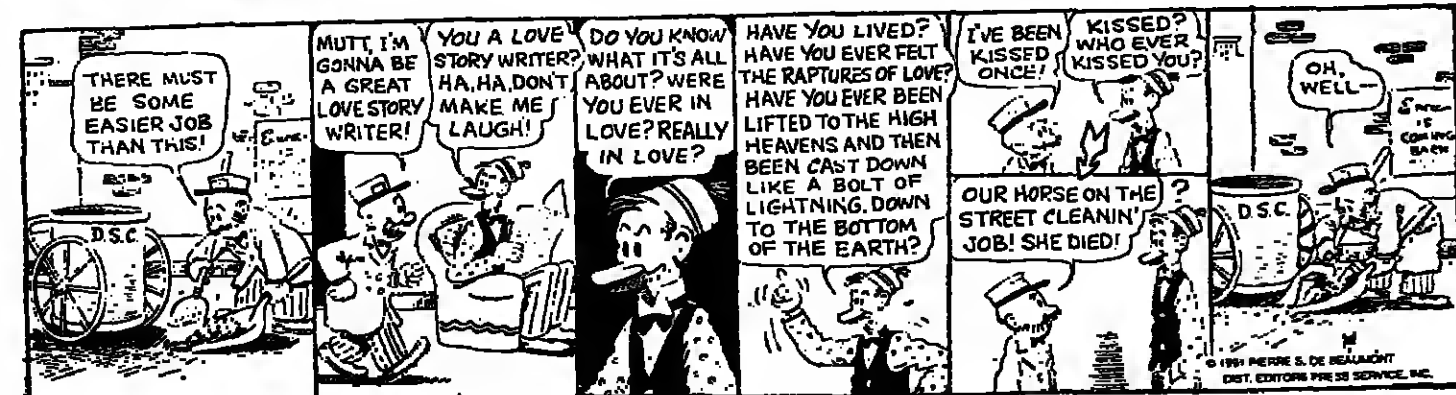
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff









## U.N. chief, Vance urge 'no outside intervention' in Bosnia

GENEVA (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and his Yugoslav crisis mediator Cyrus Vance urged major powers Wednesday to resist mounting public pressure for military action against Bosnia's rebel Serbs.

In a message to a meeting of 29 countries, including 18 foreign ministers, to discuss the war in Bosnia, Dr. Ghali said any outside intervention could escalate the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The road ahead lies through continuous negotiations in good faith in the spirit of the United Nations Charter...not in actions which would serve to continue or escalate the violence," he said, according to an official text.

Mr. Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, told the ministers they would be heading for disaster if they approved any form of military action now.

"Practically speaking, there are no serious alternatives to a negotiated political settlement," he declared.

The message from the two came amid mounting pressure for action against the Bosnian Serbs.

The United States and France have already begun drafting a U.N. Security Council resolution enforcing a military "no-fly zone" over Bosnia repeatedly breached by the Serbs. Diplomats say a resolution could be adopted later this week.

The U.N. secretary-general did not refer to the "no-fly zone" in his message to the conference, but pointedly warned against giving in to "short-term nostrums."

"Understandable emotion must be balanced by sombre

appreciation of the risks and benefits. Short-term nostrums must be examined in the light of their contribution to long-range stability," he said.

But Mr. Vance made clear he opposed military action to keep Bosnian Serb aircraft on the ground, arguing any violations of the "no-fly" resolution had little or no military significance.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who arrived early and uninvited for the Geneva talks, said any such action would be regarded as "an act of aggression against the Serbian people."

"The international community is making a terrible mistake by pressing only one side any by that encouraging two other sides to continue with fights," Mr. Karadzic told reporters. "What motivation have Muslim or Croatian side to stop fighting?"

Apart from enforcing the no-fly zone, the United States is pushing for the establishment of a Nuremberg-style war crimes tribunal to punish perpetrators of human rights abuses.

The Geneva meeting, held in the framework of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, has been billed as a chance to review progress more than three months after ministers' first met in London.

Dr. Ghali has asked NATO for access to contingency plans for three possible military operations in the former Yugoslavia should the Security Council authorise them, U.N. officials and diplomats said Tuesday.

The operations include enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, the establishment of safe havens for civi-

lians in Bosnia and ways of preventing the war from spilling over into Kosovo and Macedonia.

In response, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner sent a letter agreeing to share plans with the United Nations following a meeting Monday with ambassadors from the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members.

NATO members also asked its military planners to formally draw up contingency plans for three operations, the sources said.

But diplomats cautioned that Dr. Ghali's request was a preliminary probe and did not mean automatic authorisation by the council.

Meanwhile, the Belgrade-based news agency, Tanjug, reported that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin was helping the government of the rump Yugoslavia Tuesday formulate a joint peace plan.

It said Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic sent his special adviser Svetozar Stojanovic to Geneva to work on the plan.

Serb leaders reacted with fear and defiance to Western warnings of military intervention — with one commander claiming it "would be suicidal" for foreign troops to enter.

But some Serb leaders, including headline Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, were reportedly pressing for a speedy end to the fighting.

In Sarajevo, Tuesday's fighting destroyed the city's water pumps, but U.N. officials said they hoped aid flights into the struggling capital could resume Wednesday after a two-week interruption.

Talk of Western military intervention has increased recently because of fears that Serbia, the dominant partner in the smaller Yugoslavia, will let the Bosnian war spill over into other ethnically tense areas.

"Any such intervention would be suicidal," Maj. Gen. Milan Gvero, second-in-command of Bosnian Serb troops, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from his Pale headquarters, just east of Sarajevo.

"We will have to defend ourselves because we have nowhere to go," he said.

Mr. Milosevic, in a statement on Tanjug News Agency, said the threats to intervene were "timed on the eve of the elections...to frighten us into starting to behave as the architects of the new world order expect us to."

He vowed to continue to act "in accordance with our interests."

Still, despite his blunt talk ahead of Sunday's presidential elections, he and other Yugoslav leaders were said to be pressuring Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic to end the fighting.

Mr. Karadzic met late Monday with Mr. Milosevic, Mr. Cosic and federal army commanders, said sources close to the talks.

The urged Mr. Karadzic to stop the fighting, fearing Western troops could hit not only Bosnia but Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Karadzic has said the "parliament" of his self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic will declare the war over this week and try to stop the bloodbath by year's end.

## Khmer Rouge seizes 21 U.N. hostages

PHNOM PENH (R) — The militant Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction has taken 21 U.N. peacekeepers hostage in a central Cambodian province where other "blue berets" were held captive earlier this month, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Negotiations were under way for the men's release.

One Indonesian officer, 14 Indonesian paratroopers, four U.N. military observers — from the United States, China, France and Senegal — and two Khmer Rouge interpreters were seized Tuesday and Wednesday, the spokesman said.

On Dec. 1, Khmer Rouge guerrillas took six U.N. peacekeepers prisoner at gunpoint in Kompong Thom province, 160 kilometres north of Phnom Penh. The six were released unharmed three days later.

The province has been the scene of the worst ceasefire violations since the signing of the U.N.-sponsored Paris peace agreement in October, 1991.

"We don't think they're in any kind of danger and we're confident they'll be released very shortly," Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said of the latest victims.

He said the senior Khmer Rouge official in Phnom Penh, Chun Sikhorn, had ordered the men's release and they "should

be free tonight or early tomorrow."

Such an order brought freedom for the three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander, held in the earlier hostage drama.

They had been accused by a local Khmer Rouge commander of spying for the Phnom Penh government.

Mr. Falt said UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi of Japan and military commander Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, an Australian, were closely following the situation.

Mr. Falt said early reports indicated the peacekeepers were taken prisoner by a local Khmer Rouge commander acting on his own.

"We will certainly draw to their (Khmer Rouge) attention the serious implication of this action," he said.

A negotiating team made up of an Indonesian officer and 11 paratroopers was in position 500 metres from the hostage site at Phum O'Sala, the U.N. spokesman said.

The latest incident began at noon Tuesday when two of the military observers radioed sector headquarters in Kompong Thom town that they were travelling to O'Sala hamlet to meet a local Khmer Rouge commander.

A second patrol of two military observers accompanied by the Indonesian officer and his men

plus the two interpreters set off in search of their colleagues Wednesday morning.

Early Wednesday afternoon sector headquarters in Kompong Thom received a report that the second group had been taken hostage and were being held against their will at O'Sala, 10 kilometres east of the provincial capital.

U.N. peacekeepers will increase patrols of Cambodian trouble spots and form quick-reaction forces to handle emergency duties, Mr. Falt said Tuesday.

"Quick-reaction forces will be ready to deploy immediately in an emergency situation," he told a news briefing in Phnom Penh.

The new forces and the extra patrols of areas troubled by ceasefire violations would start in the new year with the aim of deploying peacekeeping soldiers relative to specific threats, he said.

The quick-response forces would be drawn from each of the U.N. infantry battalions in Cambodia and their training will emphasise fast deployment by helicopter and vehicle, an UNTAC military officer said. The announcement of new units coincides with increasing ceasefire violations and heightened military tension, although Mr. Falt denied the formation of the new units was related to the violations and tension.

## 2 blasts shake London's Oxford Street

LONDON (R) — Two blasts shook London's crowded Oxford Street shopping area Wednesday, shocking Christmas shoppers and injuring at least two people.

The first blast rocked the John Lewis Department Store, sending glass shattering into the street. Police said a bomb appeared to have been left in a toilet.

Minutes later another bomb went off in nearby Cavendish Square, in a car or litter bin. Emergency services said two people were injured.

"There was a huge blast and smoke and pieces of paper and metal flying in the air," said eyewitness Emma Gray who was in a cafe behind John Lewis when the first explosion occurred.

The London Ambulance Service said two ambulances and a paramedic unit were evacuating the area at the time of the first explosion and police said an announcement of telephone warnings had been given for the blasts around Oxford Street, London's most famous shopping street.

Britain is in the grip of the worst mainland bombing campaign by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British control of Northern Ireland, since the 1970s and has accompanied its spate of bombings with coded warnings.

The IRA did not immediately claim responsibility for the bombs but anti-terrorist experts said it was a bid by the IRA to frighten Christmas shoppers from using the centre of the city.

## Rao locked in battle with Hindu party

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has sacked three state governments in an all-out war against a powerful pro-Hindu party accused of abetting the demolition of a mosque and fomenting communal violence.

A presidential proclamation Tuesday night placed Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), under New Delhi's direct rule.

An official spokesman said the decision was a "cabinet meeting" and Mr. Rao before he moved to President Shankar Dayal Sharma for action.

As a proponent of the federal government's security forces across India, much of which had been recovering from communal violence and round-the-clock curfews.

The BJP described the federal government's action as "murder of democracy" and demanded mid-term election.

"It's a declaration of a war against democracy. The people will give a fitting reply," said the BJP's senior leader Atal Behari Vajpayee.

But the ruling Congress Party and other opposition groups supporting it have welcomed the dismissal, which followed a ban on communal groups.

The government last Thursday banned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) and the Bhajarang Dal, all linked with the BJP. It also proscribed two Muslim religious groups.

The BJP backed a campaign by the three Hindu groups to build a temple at a disputed site where the 16th century mosque stood in the northern town of Ayodhya — before it was razed by frenzied Hindu mobs on Dec. 6.

Militant Hindus say the site was the birthplace of the warrior god-king Lord Rama and a temple must be built there.

The BJP government of Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is located, was dismissed immediately after the mosque was destroyed. The demolition sparked communal violence in which some 1,200 people died.

The government also arrested BJP parliamentary leader Lal Krishna Advani and party President Murli Manohar Joshi, along with others, on charges of fomenting communal violence.

The BJP had won four state governments and become the largest opposition party in parliament on the back of its emotive temple campaign.

BJP vice-president Krishan Lal Sharma said the federal government's action in sacking the state governments sounded a "death knell for the democratic and federal functioning of the Indian constitution."

"The party will not take lying down any such onslaught on the Indian democracy and will fight back with all its might."

BJP leaders said the party had a contingency plan to fight the government politically and constitutionally.

But lately Mr. Bush has gone out of his way to be gracious towards the man whose highest elective office before winning the White House was the Arkansas governorship.

Although Mr. Clinton has vowed to make reviving the U.S. economy his chief priority as president, since the election he has taken pains to stress his concerns for foreign affairs.

His experience in international diplomacy, however, falls far short of Mr. Bush's and has generated concern in various world capitals about Mr. Clinton's ability to fill his predecessor's shoes.

Mr. Bush's remarks about Mr. Clinton appeared to be designed to send reassuring signals to other world leaders that the next president of the White House does not intend to abandon established U.S. policies.

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"It looks very much like this will have to be thrashed out between the ministers on Thursday," said another alliance diplomat. "There could well be a row."

Eastern European nations, many of whom are keen on closer ties with NATO eventual membership in the alliance, have been pressing the French to back down.

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## COLUMBIA

### Diana commits herself to charity work

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana pledged to do with her charity work all separation from her throne Prince Charles. In a public speech since her announcement of the split, the princess told a conference of voluntary workers: "Whatever uncertainties the last few years have brought, I am certain of this — one together will continue to change."

The 31-year-old princess, who heads a unit of charities and is involved in others, was speaking at a conference of the drink and drug Turning Point, of which she has been patron for five years, in a sleek black jacket and grey skirt, princess Diana confidently amid a "barrage" of camera flashes of the media's old, handicapped and less.

"Especially now as Christmas brings its own painful times so many people in need, I play such a major role in reality the true meaning of Christmas, that of peace and hope," she said.

Fleming family by James Bond notebooks

LONDON (R) — The notebook of James Bond Ian Fleming, filled with copy on spies, women and gun bought by his family for £22,400 at a London auction. Experts had valued £30,000 (\$45,000), Nicholas Lucy Fleming, said "I found, nephew and niece, author, bought the James file containing observations on Russians, 'cities' if the crime, women, gaudy plots and women," as the paper put it. At the auction, a suit and a monogrammed slipper belonging to Fleming were bought by their donor as the bid well short of expectation.

Nicholas Henderson, former British ambassador to Washington, said he had paid £418 (\$650) for the slippers, well below the hoped-for £2,000 (\$3,127 to \$4,690). "I bought them in a store for a frustrated auctioneer, not to the packed room, after to restart the bidding at £310 when no one took starting price of £600."

Japan minister apologises for slur on foreigners

TOKYO (R) — New Japan Labour Minister Masamichi Kami made apologies of a "criticising foreigners" with saying he had been "misunderstood."

That is why they are coming being left far behind Japan Germany," Mr. Murakami told reporters Monday, after to Kyodo News Agency wanted to say that economic development by resources Japan was due to its "work diligence," he said at Tokyo news conference. Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Kami told reporters that this not a serious issue. "He returned a certain statement which I have been misunderstood, I think (of the issue) so serious."

Clueto kills off country parson

LONDON (R) — The maker of the woodcut board game Clueto has decided to drop country parson as a suspect sparking dismay among enthusiasts and fears it reflects decline of the clergy in Britain.

Waddingtons' Games, which has made the game since 1967, said it was a "firm decision" to drop the "Rev Green" character, who appeared alongside "Cold Mustard" and "Professor" as possible murderers since game was invented in 1948.

"We don't want to insult the clergy, but Britain has a right to look back," said a spokesman for Waddingtons. "A modern businessman is more suitable for the 1990s." Crime writer Heald told the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "This is disgraceful. They want to write out anyone who make more sense to the public than the old-fashioned."

The columnist added: "If Church of England needed funds bad news about its marginalisation from British life, here it is. Clueto players will be told to murder of Dr. Black found at the bottom of the stairs of sprawling mansion called 'The Close'. Characters and possible murder weapons are moved around the board by throws of dice. Clueto faces increasing petition from electronic game such as Nintendo Game Boy, which sold 250,000 sets are sold Britain every year and worldwide sales now total 100 million."

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Seoul fires 3 more regional officials

SEOUL (AP) — The government Wednesday fired three more regional officials for allegedly plotting to rig Friday's presidential election. A mayor has already been dismissed for the same case, after an opposition party Tuesday made public a tape recording of what it said was a secret meeting where the mayor and local officials allegedly plotted campaign strategy. The three officials fired Wednesday were the regional chiefs of the police, the nation's spy agency and army intelligence — all appointed by the government. By law, government officials cannot campaign in the election. The fired Pusan mayor, Kim Young Hwan, admitted that he attended the 7 a.m. meeting last Friday but denied that they plotted to rig the election. Pusan, the nation's largest port and second largest city, 325 kilometres south of Seoul, is the political home of majority party candidate Kim Young Sam.

#### Yeltsin, Kohl back early troop pullout

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday approved a deal to pull Russian troops out of eastern Germany six months earlier than planned, German delegation sources said. Mr. Yeltsin gained two extra concessions from a draft drawn up before Mr. Kohl's visit to Moscow. Russia will receive an extra 550 million marks (\$350 million) of German aid instead of 500 million (\$320 million). Russia will also be given more time to begin service payments on 17.6 billion marks (\$1.28 billion) owed to former east Germany, the sources said. "I am very pleased with the agreement in view of the original Russian demands for more than 10 billion marks (\$6.4 billion)," German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said later. The agreement would not place excessive burdens on the German budget. "It is sustainable," he said.

#### Albania applies to join NATO

BRUSSELS (R) — Albania, warning that war will spread through the Balkans, told NATO Wednesday it was applying to join the Western alliance, the first former member of the Warsaw Pact to do so since the end of the cold war. Albanian President Sali Berisha, on his first visit to alliance headquarters, told NATO his country would not allow "ethnic cleansing" to start in the troubled Serbian province of Kosovo, where most of the people are ethnic Albanians. He appealed for "peacekeeping forces to be sent to Kosovo to stop the Yugoslav conflict spreading." "Albania could not tolerate, is not prepared to tolerate, ethnic cleansing (in Kosovo)," he told ambassadors from the 16 NATO nations and Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, "A Balkan war (will) very probably start." Mr. Berisha made no direct link between the threat of a wider war in the Balkans and his country's application for NATO membership, but said Albanians regarded the alliance as a pillar of stability in Europe.

#### Suicide doctor assists in 2 more cases

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Two more women killed themselves with help from suicide-machine inventor Jack Kevorkian, hours before Michigan's governor signed a law that will temporarily ban assisted suicides. Both women — the seventh and eighth since 1990 to die with Dr. Kevorkian's help — had attended a news conference with him 12 days ago to protest the legislation. The state's lack of such a ban was cited when charges against Dr. Kevorkian were dropped in the first three deaths he aided. Dr. Kevorkian, a retired pathologist whose medical licence has been suspended, was by their sides when Marguerite Tate, 70, and Marcella Lawrence, 67, committed suicide at Ms. Tate's home. Both were acutely ill.

#### Hanoi welcomes U.S. easing of embargo

HANOI (R) — Vietnamese officials have welcomed a U.S. decision to ease an embargo by allowing American firms to set up offices in Vietnam, but urged Washington to lift sanctions and normalise ties with Hanoi. "We welcome the news and it is an encouraging gesture, but the U.S. side must go further," said Ho Xuan Dich, head of a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry office helping U.S. experts resolve the fate of American servicemen missing from the Vietnam War. "If the two sides normalise ties, it would create favourable conditions for solving the MIA (missing-in-action) issue," he told Reuters at Hanoi's airport before heading to the U.S. military remains of Americans killed before the war ended in 1975.

#### Renewed fighting reported in Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — Fierce fighting was reported between National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels and the rival ULIMO militia around the strategic Bong Mines, rebel radio said Wednesday. The radio quoted fleeing civilians as saying that fighting in settlements around the disputed iron ore mine has been under way for the past four days. Military sources in Monrovia said that if ULIMO (United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy) were to capture the town.

## Russian ministers have no plans to resign

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's reformist economic ministers have no plans to resign for the time being despite the fall of radical acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, a well-placed government official said Wednesday.

"At the moment, none of them are thinking of resigning in the near future," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

President Boris Yeltsin ditched Mr. Gaidar Monday for former Soviet technocrat Viktor Chernomyrdin, triggering speculation that the young team running the government's radical economic reforms would step down immediately.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, formerly energy minister, asked the cabinet to stay on. Key economic members had said previously they would resign if Mr. Gaidar went.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Mr. Yeltsin Wednesday asked Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev, whom he criticised in October for performing unsatisfactorily, to stay in his post.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko Wednesday said he did not expect the government to resign en masse and said Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais had decided to stay in the government, Interfax News Agency reported.

Two of the top four radicals, Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev and Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin, took part in a meeting between Mr. Yeltsin and visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Tuesday.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who was in parliament for discussions on next year's budget, has already given conflicting signals about the policies he will adopt and the make-up of his government.

## Azeris, Armenians trade charges at CSCE

STOCKHOLM (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other Tuesday of escalating their armed conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, thwarting peace efforts by a European Security conference.

Armenian Foreign Minister Arman Kirakossian said Azerbaijan had shelled Armenian cities along the border region from Dec. 8, adding: "Owing to the destructive position of the Azeri delegation we didn't come to any positive conclusions."

Azeri Foreign Minister Tofig Gassimov, one of 51 ministers attending a two-day meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), fought back by charging Armenia with starting a new offensive on Dec. 10.

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush, who repeatedly warned voters about Bill Clinton's foreign policy inexperience during the election campaign, now says he believes the president-elect will keep America in the forefront of world affairs.

Mr. Bush, who Tuesday urged Americans to ignore isolationist calls for less involvement in international diplomacy, predicted Mr. Clinton will honour U.S. obligations worldwide.

During a speech summarising his foreign policy beliefs and accomplishments, Mr. Bush told more than 7,000 people at Texas A.M. University that future generations of Americans will "pay dearly" if the United States ignores the rest of the world to care for its problems at home.

"In 36 days we will have a new president," Mr. Bush said. "And I am confident, I am very confi-

## Bush: Clinton will keep U.S. a global leader

dent that he will do his level best to serve the cause that I have outlined.

"He's going to have my support," Mr. Bush said, "but it is more important...that he have your support."

Saying he intends to "stay out of his way" once Mr. Clinton becomes president on Jan. 20, Mr. Bush stressed that America needs to maintain its role as a global leader in order to control its own fate.

"Our choice as a people is simple," Mr. Bush said in his speech at the university located in College Station, Texas. "We can either shape our times or we can let the times shape us...at a price frightening to contemplate."

Noting the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Bush warned that the "new world in time could be as menacing as the old." He said the United States must con-

tinue to foster and support the spread of fledgling democracies.

"A retreat from American leadership, from American involvement would be a mistake for which future generations, indeed our own children, would pay dearly," he told the crowd at the school where his presidential library will be built.

Mr. Bush was criticised during the presidential campaign for spending too much time on foreign affairs while neglecting a prolonged recession at home which has cost thousands of Americans their jobs.

Mr. Bush, who has been U.S. envoy to China, ambassador to the United Nations, director of the CIA and vice president as well as president, had used scathing rhetoric during the presidential campaign to cast Mr. Clinton as a novice in foreign affairs.

But lately Mr. Bush has gone out of his way to be gracious towards the man whose highest elective office before winning the White House was the Arkansas governorship.

Although Mr. Clinton has vowed to make reviving the U.S. economy his chief priority as president, since the election he has taken pains to stress his concerns for foreign affairs.

His experience in international diplomacy, however, falls far short of Mr. Bush's and has generated concern in various world capitals about Mr. Clinton's ability to fill his predecessor's shoes.

Mr. Bush's remarks about Mr. Clinton appeared to be designed to send reassuring signals to other world leaders that the next president of the White House does not intend to abandon established U.S. policies.

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Eastern European nations, many of whom are keen on closer ties with NATO eventual membership in the alliance, have been pressing the French to back down.

If the NATO allies can overcome the problem Thursday, the way will be clear for a wider peacekeeping agreement Friday at a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, a 37-nation body linking NATO with all former Warsaw Pact members.

France insists any detailed decisions on peacekeeping missions must be taken by all 16 members, which would take power away from the defence planning wing of the alliance. Until that happens, France has told NATO it will not agree.

The United States and other allies insist NATO, which built up a vast military structure during the cold war, must take on this new role if it is to remain relevant.

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